AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

APR 12 1990

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For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

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April 2, 1990
For immediate release

Dugout supply is just a melt away

Recent late winter snowstorms are the best opportunity to capture runoff for farmstead and pasture dugouts says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"The gradual snowmelt through March limited the volume of runoff available to fill dugouts for this year," says Neil MacAlpine, a farm water management engineer with Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch.

Although snow fall this winter was about the long term average, MacAlpine says evaporation from warm days and delayed runoff with cool nights means farmers should be especially vigilant this year and make sure that the maximum amount of runoff is delivered to their dugouts this spring.

"Capture water when you can. Some timely work this spring will guarantee a good supply of water for 1990 and, for dugouts with a two year capacity, hopefully for 1991 as well.

"New dugouts should get special attention since they will need the most water to get filled. And if snowmelt becomes rapid, there is little time to remove blockages that may keep surface water from getting into dugouts," he says.

MacAlpine says the key is to make sure field ditches, natural runways and culverts that drain into the farm dugout work efficiently to deliver runoff. Temporary ice dams from snowdrifts and blocked culverts can send water past the dugout.

Farmers who believe extraordinary measures are necessary to divert water from other sources such as sloughs, creeks or watercourses should contact the nearest Alberta Environment water resources administration office. The five regional offices are in: Peace River (624-6167), Edmonton (427-5296), Red Deer (340-5310), Calgary (297-6582) and Lethbridge (381-5399).

(Cont'd)

"Farmers who anticipate pumping will be necessary to fill dugouts should be lining up pumping equipment before snowmelt. If they don't have their own equipment, they should contact equipment rental companies," MacAlpine says.

Alberta Agriculture also provides dugout filling equipment on a first-come, first-served basis. Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist can provide more information on this service. "But," MacAlpine warns, "If there is a sudden melt, using the government's equipment will be the least flexible in timely capture, because of the high demand there will be on government equipment."

Although farmstead dugouts, especially for large livestock operations, will be the focus for most water capture efforts, pasture dugouts shouldn't be forgotten, he says. "Cattle producers want to avoid a situation where the pasture has lots of grass, but no water supply. And hauling water is time consuming work and expensive."

For more information contact: MacAlpine in Edmonton at 422-4385, Brian West in Red Deer at 340-5322, or any Alberta Agriculture regional engineer or technologist.

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Contact: Neil MacAlpine
422-4385

April 2, 1990
For immediate release

Advantages in slough consolidation

Five years ago in the spring of 1985, Andy Olson seeded his home quarter nine miles north of Rycroft by maneuvering his equipment around the 23 sloughs that dotted the field.

Many Alberta farmers are faced with the same problem of temporary sloughs and wetlands throughout their fields. Farmers have been trying to manage and reclaim them for years, says Brent Paterson, of Alberta Agriculture's land evaluation and reclamation branch. "Farmers, and others, are still looking for the best answers to the cost of farming around sloughs and potholes. It costs money for fuel, seed and herbicides plus the loss of production."

But the traditional approach of surface drainage isn't without another set of problems. In areas with high soil erosion potential, surface drainage causes major problems--downstream flooding and sediment loading of streams and rivers.

As well, there is the problem of loss of wildlife habitat. Alberta wetlands produce approximately 20 per cent of North American waterfowl. Intensive farming in the 1970s lowered duck and other waterfowl and wildlife populations.

"The Olson drainage project is an attempt to balance all the concerns," says Paterson. "This project is one of several in a comprehensive study of on-farm water management alternatives." Provincial agriculture, environment, municipal affairs and forestry, lands and wildlife departments and the Alberta Water Commission are partners in this study.

This spring, as he has since 1986, Olson will farm through the 40 acres the sloughs once covered. In the northwest corner of the quarter is a consolidation pond constructed as a co-operative on-farm drainage project between the Olsons, Jensen Engineering (a private engineering company based in Olds), the Municipal District of Spirit River and the provincial government departments and agencies involved in the farm water management study.

(Cont'd)

The Olson project uses both surface and subsurface drainage. Half of the sloughs were drained using standard surface drainage and the remainder with subsurface plastic drain tubing. All the drains were connected to a consolidation pond constructed in the northwest corner of the quarter. All subsurface drainage water and most of the surface drainage water is pumped into the pond during the spring melt and any rainstorms.

Olson says the advantage of the drainage system isn't so much the land he's gained, as the ease of working his land. Usually the quarter has been ready for spring work before others. It also has played a part in drainage from unexpected rains such as during the recent warm Christmas. "There weren't ice pools on the field like in some of the others. The pond also filled up at Christmas," Olson says.

"From the Alberta Agriculture point of view, we've been satisfied with the success of the project in retaining most of the drainage on the farm where it can be used for various purposes during dry summer periods. The reduction of drainage flow off the farm will also mean significant dollar savings for expensive downstream erosion projects and drainage infrastructure," says Paterson.

The pond itself is also unique. Designed by Jeff Green, of the Delta Environmental Management Group in Calgary, it provides maximum wildlife habitat especially for waterfowl. Nesting islands were constructed in the middle the pond. Shrubs, trees and grasses were planted around outside for additional nesting habitat and cover from predators. The pond water level is contoured and regulated to provide the correct ratio of temporary and permanent water for nesting.

Wildlife concerns are very important to Olson. He says he feels he owes something to the waterfowl and wildlife in the area, so the pond isn't disturbed. As well as the habitat around the pond, Olson has left 20 acres of brush standing next to the pond on the adjacent quarter section. Deer, coyotes and even moose use the area and water at the pond.

(Cont'd)

Advantages in slough consolidation (cont'd)

Seeing water in the pond during a dry summer two years ago confirmed the environmental usefulness of the project, he says. The Olsons watched ducks and other waterfowl swim around their consolidation pond, one of the few surface water supplies in their area.

The Olson's consolidation project is one of two consolidation drainage research projects in the study. Both the Olson project, and another one near Donalda, are constantly monitored to evaluate on-farm water management that takes into account needs of both farmer and wildlife.

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Contact: Brent Paterson
381-5515

April 2, 1990
For immediate release

Lambco offered for sale

Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley has announced the Government of Alberta will entertain bids from interested buyers for the assets and operations of Lambco, Western Canada's only federally-inspected lamb slaughtering and processing operation.

Lambco, a division of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation, operates from a 38,000 square foot processing facility in Innisfail. As a major purchaser of lambs, the operation provides an important service to Alberta's 2,000 sheep producers.

"We expect the privatization of Lambco to be a very positive step in the province's strategy for furthering economic diversification and value adding activity. The Government of Alberta is seeking bids from prospective buyers who can demonstrate a clear intent to maintain Lambco's operation as a processor of lamb and veal in Alberta. We will not consider selling Lambco to any bidder until we are satisfied that the sale will protect the interests of Alberta's sheep and veal producers," Isley said in the sale announcement March 26.

Further information on the bidding process and conditions of sale can be obtained by writing: Barry Mehr, Assistant deputy minister, Alberta Agriculture, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact: Brad Klak
Executive Assistant
to the Minister
427-2137

Barry Mehr
427-2442

April 2, 1990
For immediate release

New chairman named for planning secretariat

Doug Radke, Alberta Agriculture assistant deputy minister of planning and development, has announced the new chairman of the department's chief planning and policy analysis group.

Ken Beswick will become chairman of the planning secretariat effective April 2, 1990, replacing Stan Schellenberger, who moves to the Department of Economic Development and Trade. Beswick is currently chairman of the Alberta Grain Commission. He will continue in that capacity in addition to taking on his new responsibilities in the planning secretariat.

"Ken Beswick has a very close relationship with Alberta's farm community, having farmed in the Spring Coulee district for 17 years and worked with industry and government representatives on grain industry issues for the past four years. Ken's extensive knowledge of the grain industry, together with his wide understanding of agricultural and trade issues, will help ensure the continuation of the planning secretariat's outstanding contribution to Alberta's agriculture industry," says Radke. Beswick holds a BSc in agriculture from the University of Manitoba and a MBA from the University of Western Ontario.

Alberta Agriculture's planning secretariat provides strategic planning, evaluation, policy analysis, and project management services to the department. The planning secretariat communicates with all segments of the agriculture industry and with other governments, focusing on policy alternatives aimed at enhancing the economic viability of the farm sector and related industries in Alberta.

In making this announcement, Radke noted Beswick's appointment as chairman of the planning secretariat would not affect the operation of the Alberta Grain Commission. "The Commission will continue to assist the grains and oilseeds industry in our province, and to serve in an advisory capacity to the Minister and Associate Minister of Agriculture," he says.

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Contact: Doug Radke
427-1957

April 2, 1990
For immediate release

Youth horse judging seminar May 5

A day long youth horse judging seminar in Olds May 5 will introduce participants to the finer points of judging horses.

"The seminar is our second and will have the same sort of activities--lectures, demonstrations, judging classes and discussing the placings," says Bob Coleman, Alberta Agriculture provincial horse specialist and one of the program's co-ordinators. "We had 30 people at our first seminar in Leduc and hope to have another good attendance in Olds.

"The idea behind the program is developing future judges. Finding qualified professional judges is becoming more and more difficult, and because a major aspect of the horse industry is evaluation of horses in the show ring, the shortage is a concern in the industry.

"At the same time, the seminars supplement the skills and knowledge of people who are the future of the horse industry. Besides a better perspective on the industry, there are opportunities for personal development as they learn how to interact with professional horsemen, make and defend their decisions and handle pressure in a competitive situation," he says.

The knowledge base has to cross breed and performance boundaries, so general conformation and performance are highlighted at the seminars. Seminars aren't breed or activity specific, but are designed for solid general knowledge. "Participants learn to use concise and correct terms and terms that are easy to understand," says Coleman

At the first seminar participants examined halter, western pleasure and English pleasure classes with Quarter and Morgan horses. The Olds seminar will cover the same classes with quarter horses and Arabians. Also on the agenda are how to analyze conformation, how to judge a performance class and demonstrations of judging criteria.

(Cont'd)

Guiding participants through the first seminar were Jim Kubiak, Olds College equine program co-ordinator; Pete Fraser, a High River judge and breeder; and, Karen Able, a Morgan breeder and trainer. Kubiak, who also co-ordinates the youth horse judging program with Coleman, will also be at the Olds Seminar.

Age guidelines haven't been strictly set, but Coleman says youth participants should probably be at least 14 years of age. Seminars are also open to adults who may want to be judging coaches or who want to know more about judging.

Coleman says the seminars wouldn't be possible without assistance from a number of people. "Dawnville Farms in Leduc let us use their facility for the first seminar and a number of volunteers brought and showed their horses for our judging classes."

Pre-registration for the Olds seminar is requested. The fee is $10 per person. The seminar will be held at the Olds Cow Palace beginning at 8:30 a.m. Registration and other information is available from the horse industry branch in Edmonton at 427-8905 or the horse industry branch in Calgary at 297-6650.

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Contact: Bob Coleman
427-8905

Editor's note

The following articles were written in support of National Soil Conservation Week, April 9 - 15. This week is designated annually to raise awareness of the importance of soil conservation practices. For more information, contact Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch in Edmonton at 422-4385.

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For immediate release

Poster promotes conservation

Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan (left) presents National Soil Conservation Week poster competition winner Melissa Hofer (right) with a copy of her framed poster. Her poster design is featured on the 1990 promotional poster used across the Prairies for the awareness week.

While most of the rest of her Star Ridge School classmates were out checking a blue bird house project, Melissa Hofer had to stay behind and finish a poster for art class.

But she isn't angry she had to finish her project, because her poster was the winning entry in a National Soil Week Conservation poster competition.

Hofer's poster proclaims "save our soils". Her pictures show three ways of preventing soil erosion by planting grass, leaving stubble and using windbreaks. The poster is featured as the 1990 poster promoting the national awareness week across the Prairies.

(Cont'd)

She won $50 for her efforts and was presented a framed poster by the Associate Minister of Agriculture Shirley McClellan when the minister recently visited the school north of Botha. The poster will be hung in her bedroom, she says. The $50 went to buying new clothes. She also received two books, one which chronicles the history of soil and water conservation in the province.

The announcement of winning posters was an exciting time at her school. Five of Hofer's classmates had their poster chosen as one of the 25 runner-up posters. Her winning classmates were Matilda Hofer, Paul Hofer, Jacob Hofer, Levi Hofer, and Christian Hofer. McClellan presented each of the winning students with an Alberta Conservation Tillage Society "Soil is #1: Don't blow it" pin.

Star Ridge principal Larry Scheerschmidt says he incorporates conservation and other environmental issues where appropriate into social studies and science curriculum. "With the dry springs in the last years, students saw wind erosion happening out their windows. Then we discussed causes and prevention."

Teachers across the province will soon be able to use a resource booklet on soil conservation currently being prepared for elementary school students. The booklet is a joint effort of Alberta Agriculture and Agriculture Canada through the federal/provincial Soil Conservation Agreement. All 26 of the winning posters in the competition will be featured in the booklet.

The 274 posters entered in the contest were judged for neatness, accuracy and their message about soil conservation. The contest was sponsored by Alberta Agriculture's Ag in the Classroom project and conservation and development branch and the Rural Education Development Association (REDA).

Other winners were:

Sunita Chacko	Willingdon School, Willingdon
Jennifer Christenson	Round Hill School, Round Hill
Kenten Bowick	
Katie McCloy	Grandview Elementary, Red Deer

(Cont'd)

Poster promotes conservation (cont'd)

Michael Mertz Elizabeth Emberly Jolene Shute	Vital Grandin School, St. Albert
Kathyrn Steeves Pat Dawbin	Meeting Creek School, Meeting Creek
Tyson Persson Erin Hay	Gwynne School, Gwynne
David Wipf	Warburg Colony School, Warburg
Diana Karri	Grace Sheppard School, Hines Creek
Richelle Grass Aryan Resch Stephen Nieman	Herald School, Medicine Hat
Chris Draf	Riverview Elementary, Devon
Dacia Dellezay Heather Baker Rochelle Fetch Amber Dennis	J.E. Lapointe School, Beaumont

Each of the winning schools received a soil conservation slide and script set.

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Editor's note
Don and Cathy Auch have farmed near Carmangay for the last 26 years. They raised three children, and their second son Kevin, now farms with his father. A portion of their land needed to be reclaimed after they purchased it in 1963. They have used soil management to continue to conserve their land's resources.

Overcoming problem land

Purchasing land to start your own farm is a major decision in anyone's life. When Don Auch made his land purchase in 1963 he says his decision was based more on economics than the land itself.

Originally from Pincher Creek, Auch bought his farm three miles southwest of Carmangay after he and his father looked at prospective land in the area. Much of what they saw had been abandoned because of severe wind erosion. It wasn't the best land, but it was what he could afford, he says. About one-third of what he eventually purchased had sandy, dune-like ridges and hills overlying a silty-clay glacial till.

This land provided a challenge, he says. The depth of till ranges from three to 25 feet, sometimes over very short distances. Between the windblown ridges are level areas of silty loam topsoil and frequent depressions, often saline in nature.

His new neighbours suggested the only way to stop wind erosion was to stop cultivating summerfallow and let the weeds hold the soil down. But the thick weeds erased the benefit of summerfallowing and worsened the weed problem, Auch says.

Auch briefly tried farming this land in narrow strips, but it didn't work. No matter which way he oriented the strips, variabilities in topography and texture of his soils showed up, and so did the erosion.

Instead, Auch, decided that soils, not fields had to be managed according to their own characteristics. Fields took on irregular shapes so soil types and capabilities could be farmed as units. Cat and scraper work leveled ridges, old fence lines and filled low areas.

(Cont'd)

"Over the years and as time permitted, the blow-holes big enough to hide the living room in were filled and reclaimed," he says.

One more tool he quickly learned to use was soil testing and applying recommended fertilizers. His first fertilizer experiment resulted in a foot of higher growth, twice as many tillers and yield jumps of up to 10 bushels per acre. From then on, fertilizer management played a big part in his farming and reclamation work.

Now Auch, 52, along with his son Kevin, 26, farm 3300 acres of their own and rented land. There are only two ways to farm the sandy land, they say. "One is to continuously crop it. The other is to summerfallow, but only if it includes seeding fall rye, so no land lies unprotected during the second winter of the fallow season," says Kevin. Fall rye is the crop they favor, not for its price, but because it's hardy, does well on sandy soils and leaves more residue than spring wheat.

KEVIN AND DON AUCH IN STANDING STUBBLE

In spite of nearly 10 years of drought in the area, half of their land is continuously cropped and half summerfallowed every other year. If it's not too dry, almost all of the stubble is bladed in fall. "This is done for weed control, but mostly to improve moisture retention when we're lucky enough to get a spring snowmelt," says the elder Auch.

Anhydrous ammonia is applied through applicators built on a noble blade. Extra phosphate fertilizer is applied to the hill tops with a spreader. "We'd like to be able to deep band it in, but the tillage would bury too much of the stubble," Kevin says.

(Cont'd)

Only when there is enough--or too much--straw is the cultivator used. One more blading with a rod-weeder comes just before seeding with a double disc press drill. Phosphate fertilizer goes through the seed drill. The Auchs say they like the way a press drill stands up some of the flat straw and stubble, leaving the just-seeded crop better protected in spring.

In the fall, spring-seeded crops are straight-combined whenever possible. They also use a pickup header because fall rye doesn't straight combine well.

To round out their farming operation, the Auchs have a small herd of cattle that graze pasture unsuitable for cultivation and use the grass and hay the Auchs plant in and around the low land saline areas.

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New conservation initiatives build on college's tradition

Through most of Olds College 76-year history, formal courses in soil conservation and land management have been part of the agricultural college's curriculum.

As a mainly agricultural college, students usually return to the farm or enter the agricultural support sector. A significant number of students also come to the college for upgrading and certification. So, land stewardship has been an important component of student training.

"A land stewardship ethic has been consistently promoted through both the regular and extension programs of Olds College," says Robert Bigsby, Olds College president. "And today, we're continuing a long tradition of innovative soil conservation education."

In the mid 1980s, the college anticipated a growing need for well-trained soil conservation technicians, he says. "Increased awareness of soil degradation and developing strategies for soil conservation led Olds College staff to re-examine the scope and level of soil conservation training in our regular programs."

After a three year review, changes were made to many programs, new majors were developed and a new "land sciences" program was offered to Olds College students.

"Our review was part of an ongoing college effort to respond to technological change and industry need. One of the most significant results was land sciences and the land resource management program," says Bigsby.

This spring, the first graduates of the land resources management program who major in soil and water conservation, will be ready for the work place. "This timely graduation of trained conservation technicians will help offset manpower needs created by such programs as the Canada-Alberta Soil Conservation Initiative (CASCI)," Bigsby says. He adds job opportunities in the conservation field currently outstrip the the college's ability to supply trained technicians.

(Cont'd)

"Last year there were over 150 job postings for land resource management students, with 15 directly in soil conservation. These numbers are expected to increase in 1990," he says. "While the program capacity of 30 has been reached, there will still be a short fall of graduates to meet required manpower needs for conservation efforts."

The college has also worked with the Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen and Alberta Agriculture to develop an upgrading and certification program in soil and water conservation for people who already work in the industry. Course participants study soil properties, management practices, conservation legislation and take part in group sessions targeted at on-farm conservation planning. "This training is timely and important in preparing agricultural fieldmen to effectively administer soil conservation programs at the local level," he says.

An innovative project, a joint effort of Olds College and Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA), produced guidebooks and a tour guide package that cover virtually all soil zones and farming systems in Alberta within one-day trips of the college. These soil tours are currently used by students as an extension of the college field laboratory. As well, a number of upgrading students and interest groups use the tours to illustrate farming systems, soil conservation problems and soil and range management practices.

To support its various conservation-related initiatives, the college is constructing a new $8.5 million building to house the land sciences programs. The complex includes laboratory, classroom and greenhouse space. "These modern facilities are needed to expedite the ongoing delivery of leading-edge technology to Western Canadian students interested in conservation of our agricultural land base," he says.

While Olds College remains committed to deliver a rapid response to industry needs, in times of fiscal restrain the college is preparing to be creative in finding support for its initiatives, Bigsby says. The reason is simple, he adds. "We are convinced that the protection and preservation of this, our most important global renewable resource, is of the greatest importance to mankind."

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Agri-News briefs

ALBERTAN INDUCTED INTO CANADIAN CONSERVATION HALL OF FAME

Gordon Hilton, of Strathmore, is one of the first two inductees into the Canadian Conservation Hall of Fame. The announcement was made at Soil Conservation Canada's 1990 annual meeting. Hilton was honored for his commitment to furthering the cause of soil conservation and the need to preserve and enhance our agricultural heritage for coming generations. Among his notable achievements is his work with equipment manufacturers to modify and improve existing equipment as well as test prototypes to develop more effective equipment. Hilton was also founding chairman of the Alberta Conservation Tillage Society. In his role of promoting soil conservation worldwide, Hilton has hosted visitors from Eastern Canada, the United States, the Soviet Union, China, South Africa and Australia. Soil Conservation Canada established the Conservation Hall of Fame to recognize the contributions of Canadians from all walks of life to the furthering of the conservation ethic in Canada. The other inductee is Jean-Louis Daigle, of Grand Falls, New Brunswick. For more information contact Karen Switzer-Howse, executive director, Soil Conservation Canada, at (613)563-2605.

MANIPULATING HORMONES TO IMPROVE GROWTH

An Agriculture Canada scientist is working on a new technique that could significantly improve growth rates in cattle and sheep without harmful side effects. With help from the Farming for the Future program, a series of experiments involving sheep and cattle were conducted. "Growth hormones and insulin are thought to be involved in the control of animal growth rate. Therefore, manipulation of either the rate at which these hormones are produced, or the rate at which they are utilized by the growing tissues of an animal, should alter the rate at which the animal grows," says Gerry Mears, a research scientist in Lethbridge. "Animals that grow faster appear to utilize nutrients more efficiently...than their slower growing counterparts." While a

(Cont'd)

MANIPULATING HORMONES TO IMPROVE GROWTH (Cont'd)

reliable, easy to use system is not yet available, the procedure offers some hope for the future. Mears says it would be a valuable tool. "Such a procedure would have the benefit of not leaving residues or growth promotants in meat, something that the consumer is very concerned about." For more information, contact the Alberta Agriculture research division at 427-1956.

4-H SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINES

Past or present 4-H members applying for the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) scholarship must have their application to the 4-H branch in Edmonton by May 15. The CNE scholarships consists of a $1,000 award and a trip to the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto. All other 4-H scholarships, except the Petro-Canada Youth Leadership Award, have a July 15 deadline. Anyone writing an essay and applying for the Petro Canada award have a June 1 deadline. For more information, contact the 4-H branch in Edmonton at 427-2541.

REDA STUDY PAPERS AVAILABLE

The latest series of Alberta Rural Development Studies papers are now available. Papers offered in adult series are in three categories: agricultural economics, agriculture and the environment and agriculture and the community. The topics are: Canadian agricultural policy at a crossroads; Prairie agriculture in the 90s; climate change; sustainable agriculture; and, reaching out--a practical guide to support groups. This is the 23rd year of the program offered by the Rural Education and Development Association (REDA). Two papers may be ordered at no cost. Additional papers are available at $1 each. Further information on papers and order forms are available from REDA, 14815-119 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5L 2N9 or call 451-5959.

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CANADIANA

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Crop diversity promise in herbs, spices and essential oils

Basil, coriander and dill might not push wheat, barley and canola down the list of major crops grown in Alberta, but herb, spice and essential oil crops have an excellent potential in Alberta says an Alberta Agriculture scientist.

"Thousands of acres of these types of crops have the potential of being produced in Alberta with returns that generally are more profitable than our standard, traditional crops," says Refe Gaudiel, a research agronomist at the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks.

Gaudiel says interest in special crops has grown in recent years. "Interest is usually more prominent during times when traditional grain prices are low and markets weak and farmers are looking for better returns. When prices and markets recover, then the alternative crop is somewhat forgotten.

"Lately, however, there's been a recognition of the advantage of special crops to compliment and supplement traditional crops, not just be their alternative."

Some southern Alberta farmers are already experimenting on their own, he says. Crops aren't grown in large acreages, more in the range of tens of acres rather than hundreds, says Gaudiel.

A growing demand in North America for herbs and spices for diverse uses including food flavoring, fragrances and pharmaceuticals has spurred research in Alberta, he says. The trend of increased awareness, consumption and demand for herbs and spices is part of a societal search for healthier diets, he adds. "A health conscious population favors spice flavoring over salt, and using natural products."

Gaudiel, who heads the special crops and agronomy section at the Brooks center, says their research work has two thrusts: what will grow here and, then, what is most viable commercially.

(Cont'd)

In research work supported by Farming for the Future funding, more than 50 different kinds of annual and perennial herb, spice and essential oil crops were grown under irrigation at the Brooks research center. A number of crops produced high enough yields of good quality to be of commercial interest he says.

Among the annual crops that showed commercial potential were: basil, borage, coriander, cilantro, dill, celery, lemon bergamot, summer savory, parsleys, Mexican marigold, annual artemsia and German chamomile. Perennial crops tall enough for mechanical harvest that also appeared to overwinter were: caraway, catnip, bergamots, fennel, chives, garlic chives, sage, hyssop, comfrey, horehound, rue, common oregano, common marjoram, common wormwood, tarragon, spearmint, peppermint, monarda and lovage.

Tests included seeding depth, row spacing, seeding dates and the best stage of plant growth for harvesting. Weed control trials were also conducted to learn how various crops tolerated herbicides.

"We're really still in the learning stages," he says. "Production is still expensive because of the seed stock, starting plants in the greenhouse and then transplanting them. And, we still need to know more about processing.

"We are developing a solid information base for a long term development program and for commercial production. We've already screened out the best potential crops. Overall, I believe there's a lot of optimism from producers, industry and government."

Gaudiel also notes that Israel in a relatively short period, about 10 years, established an export industry worth about $17 million.

Contact: Refe Gaudiel
362-3391

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For immediate release

Crow benefit paperwork in farmers' hands

Administration of the Alberta Crow Benefit Offset program will change this spring.

Starting April 16, Alberta Agriculture district staff will begin phasing out the assistance they have provided to farmers to complete program claim forms. The change is part of budget restraints in the department.

"As the service is phased out over the coming months, all applicants will have to complete their own claim forms. Farmers won't be totally on their own. We already have a guide that can help them," says Don Scheer, the Crow benefit program administrator. Copies of the program's "Guide to Claiming Benefits on Home Grown Grain" are available at Alberta Agriculture district offices.

During the phase-out period, assistance will be provided in district offices on specified days to producers having difficulty filling out the forms. Local district agriculturists will contact farmers in their area to advise them of the schedule.

"Assistance to complete the farm fed option forms will still be available from the program's head office in Edmonton," Scheer adds. Farmers can call toll-free through the Alberta Government RITE system. Check your local telephone directory under Government of Alberta, dial the RITE number listed and ask the operator for 142-0015. The line is open weekdays from 8:15 a.m. through 4:30 p.m.

Completed program claim forms will be accepted at district offices any time.

For more information about the administration of the Alberta Crow Benefit Offset program, contact Scheer in Edmonton at 422-0015.

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Contact: Don Scheer
422-0015

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Granular applicators make airseeders more economical

Farmers can more easily justify purchasing an airseeder because manufacturers now offer granular applicator attachments for their airseeders says an Alberta Farm Machinery Research Centre engineer.

"Purchasing a machine that will perform more than one operation makes economic sense," says Lawrence Papworth. Papworth is a member of a research team at the Lethbridge centre that recently completed an evaluation of a granular applicator attachment.

The attachments all work on the same principle, he says. Granular material is metered and conveyed by the airseeder to a separate set of dividing headers and spreaders. Deep banding fertilizer and applying granular chemical can be performed simultaneously with these machines. The same airseeder tank is also used for seeding later in the season.

Laboratory tests done by the centre's staff on a Flexi-Coil granular applicator attachment showed it worked similarly to a conventional pneumatic granular applicator, he says.

Two other airseeder manufacturers that offer granular applicator attachments are Bourgault and Blanchard. An evaluation report on the Blanchard Five-Way Air Seeder is available from the centre. "We plan to evaluate the Bourgault applicator attachment this spring," he adds.

Reports are also available on conventional pneumatic granular applicators. The Beline, Valmar, Nodet Gougis and Gandy have all been tested at the centre. Papworth says the centre's spring testing will include a new Gandy model.

For more information on granular applicator equipment contact the Alberta Farm Machinery Research Centre in Lethbridge at 3000 College Drive South, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1K 1L6 or call 329-1212.

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Contact: Lawrence Papworth
329-1212

April 9, 1990
For immediate release

Fertilizer key to managing intensive cropping

The key to improving crop yields and managing an intensive crop system is knowing how much fertilizer to use says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

In 1987, Doug Penney began a Farming for the Future supported project to evaluate several aspects of intensive crop management from a Western Canadian perspective. Field experiments with two varieties of barley, wheat and canola were carried out on irrigated soils at Lethbridge, Bow Island and Vauxhall, and on dryland sites at Calmar and Lacombe.

Researchers varied fertilizer rates and plant populations, applied fungicides to plant leaves and used plant growth regulators to try to increase productivity. They found the amount of fertilizer used was the biggest factor in crop yield. When moisture conditions and high fertility created a suitable environment for high yield, control of foliar diseases was necessary to optimize the yield, he says.

"Accurately predicting fertilizer requirements is essential for effective management of intensive cropping systems. Applying more fertilizer than the crop requires can reduce profits, cause yield loss from foliar diseases and lodging and create environmental concerns," says Penney, head of the department's soil fertility section. "However, lack of precision in predicting fertilizer requirements often causes farmers to under apply rather than over apply fertilizers."

The roots of this research project are European. Intensive crop management in Europe produced high cereal yields and the increased production has had a dramatic effect on the world grain trade.

"The question that arose in Western Canada about intensive crop management was: could higher yields offset the effects of inflation and low grain prices?" Penney says. Low grain prices and the higher risk associated with increased inputs have deterred most farmers from trying to intensify their cropping systems, he adds.

(Cont'd)

Penney says his research was also important because the majority of research done to provide farmers with information about their fertilizer requirements was about 20 years old. "This dated research was done with old crop varieties, few herbicide choices and much different management systems. New varieties, rotations and tillage systems have made new research necessary," he says.

Environmental concerns, particular about groundwater contamination, in recent years have also played a part in his research, he says. "These concerns can't be ignored, but have to be kept in perspective," he says. "Fertilizer use in Alberta is perceived to be high but, despite increases in fertilizer use in the last 30 years, Alberta use is still relatively low compared to places where intensive cropping is more common." Canada ranks far behind the Netherlands and West Germany in fertilizer use. Three or four annual applications per year are common in some parts of Europe. Canada's per acre fertilizer usage is also lower than use in China, the United States and the Soviet Union.

"The annual amount of nitrogen and phosphorus being added as fertilizer here has only recently approached the amount removed by crops," Penney says. He notes the high rate of nitrogen (140 lb/ac) used in the intensive crop management experiments, is considerably higher than normally used for dryland crop production in the province. A 120 bu/ac barley crop however, removes approximately 120 lb. of nitrogen in the grain and another 60 lb. in the straw for a total of 180 lb/ac.

At the Calmar site, soils were sampled in the fall of 1989 after three years of intensive crop management there. An adjacent fallow field had much higher nitrate levels than the fields with fertilizer treatments, he says. "There is less opportunity for water and nitrate to move below the rooting zone or leach, when continuous cropping is practiced," he says.

"It's obvious, in light of environmental concerns and present economic conditions, that research supporting sound fertilizer application must become a long term research priority. However, this research can't be in isolation. It has to be part of a multi-disciplinary thrust that looks at all aspects of crop management."

Contact: Doug Penney
427-2530

April 9, 1990
For immediate release

New leadership development program

Rural organizations have always depended on the leadership of their members to keep their group and activities going strong. Today, with so many more demands on people's time, leadership is even more important.

Last year Alberta Agriculture talked to rural organizations about their leadership training needs. "Their comments and ideas helped form the basis of a new provincial program in leadership development we call Alberta LEAD," says Shirley Myers, chair of the Alberta LEAD committee.

LEAD stands for leadership education for agricultural development. The program is a co-operative effort of Alberta Agriculture, the Rural Education and Development Association (REDA) and the University of Alberta's faculty of extension.

Myers, head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, says LEAD's purpose is to foster self-reliant industry organizations. Among its goals: increase agriculture related organizations' ability to plan from a global perspective; improve organization effectiveness by developing delegate and board member leadership and management abilities; and, develop individual leadership abilities for better group participation.

One element of the LEAD program is communication. "How members express their points of view or how they write business letters can make a difference in the effectiveness of their organization," says Myers. During seminars planned for the fall, members of rural organizations will have the opportunity to hone their public speaking, writing and interpersonal skills.

LEAD will also focus on developing the skills of boards of directors. Roles and responsibilities of organization directors, committee meetings and planning programs are among topics of concern. These are already addressed in a new Alberta Agriculture "Perspectives in Leadership" fact sheet series. REDA also conducts general workshops in this area for agricultural and rural organizations and can design programs to meet the needs of specific groups. More informational materials are also planned.

(Cont'd)

New leadership development program (cont'd)

Rural organizations planning events such as agricultural fairs and conferences can use "A guide to planning an event" to make their job easier. Copies are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices and the Alberta Agriculture Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6.

For more information about the Alberta LEAD program contact Myers at 427-2412 or John Melicher, REDA executive director, at 451-5959.

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Contact: Shirley Myers
427-2412

John Melicher
451-5959

April 9, 1990
For immediate release

4-H delegates explore citizenship in Ottawa

Six young Albertans learned more about what it means to be Canadian during the national 4-H citizenship seminar in Ottawa last week.

Randy Stretch, of Ponoka, David Bunney, of Ponoka, Curtis Buxton, of Consort, Carmen Smith, of Coaldale, Elaine Armitage, of Red Deer, and Gaylene Youck, of Edmonton, were the six Alberta delegates. They were chosen to attend the seminar last year at the provincial 4-H selections program.

While in Ottawa, they joined 54 other delegates from across the country to tour the nation's capital, visit the new Canadian Museum of Civilization, see activity on a maple syrup farm and tour the Agriculture Canada experimental farm. They also visited the Supreme Court and Parliament Hill, had lunch with Members of Parliament and attended Question Period. Attending citizenship court and receiving certificates of their Canadian citizenship highlighted their activities.

Among the seminar speakers were Deputy Prime Minister and agriculture minister Don Mazankowski and veteran Ottawa reporter Mike Duffy. Environmental citizenship and government functions were among seminar topics.

"One of the seminar's goals is to increase awareness and understanding of the rights and responsibilities of Canadian citizens," says Marguerite Stark, Alberta Agriculture provincial 4-H camping and exchange specialist. Other objectives are: an increased understanding of structure and functions of Canadian government; an appreciation of other Canadians and their 4-H programs; building and enhancing public awareness of 4-H; and, the opportunity to travel and become more familiar with another part of Canada.

The Alberta Wheat Pool hosted delegates, their families and their club leaders at a send-off banquet. "The Pool has sponsored this send-off banquet for 18 years, since the citizenship seminar's inception," notes Stark.

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Contact: Marguerite Stark
948-8509

April 9, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

DIAGNOSING REPRODUCTIVE PROBLEMS IN BULLS

New technology may have an answer to the old problem of estimating a bull's fertility says an Agriculture Canada scientist. Currently choosing the right bull is full of trial and error. Producers consider genetic history, physical characteristics and past performance. All are important, but there is still no direct way to measure the reproductive capacity of a specific animal. But, Glenn Coulter, a Lethbridge based researcher, says infrared thermography and ultrasongraphy can identify superior fertility sires. Although neither technology is readily available to the cattle industry right now, Coulter says, "These technologies will make a significant contribution toward more accurately assessing the reproductive capacity of bulls." Infrared thermography takes a picture of the heat given off by an object. It's accurate enough to allow scientists to estimate the warmth of a surface to within one-tenth of a degree. And, because it's a picture, it also shows how temperature varies across the surface of an object. "Maintenance of a specific temperature range within the testes of the bull is essential for normal sperm production," says Coulter. So, measuring the temperature of a bull's scrotum with infrared thermography, also measures reproductive potential. Ultrasonography allows researchers and producers to see inside a bull's scrotum without surgery. It helps them judge an animal's fertility by allowing them to see the internal structure, whether it's normal and whether there are any tumors or other problems. For more information on this Farming for the Future funded project, contact Alberta Agriculture's research division at 427-1956.

FARMLAND GOOD INVESTMENT

Two University of Alberta professors have found farmland may be a better investment than alternatives such as the stock market. "Land constitutes the largest asset item in the control of farmers in

(Cont'd)

FARMLAND GOOD INVESTMENT (cont'd)

Alberta," says Bill Phillips, chairman of the university's department of rural economy. His partner in the research project is Len Bauer, a farm management specialist in the same department. The two found that during the 23-year period between 1963 and 1985, investment in Alberta farmland outperformed the stock market as measured by the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSE) 300 composite index. Over this period the stock market had an average annual rate of return of 12.7 per cent. Alberta farmland during the same period had an average annual rate of return of 20.1 per cent, with about the same amount of variability as the stock market. Phillips and Bauer were also interested in how the results might vary across the province. They divided their information by census divisions and found that total return for farmland across Alberta varied from 16.6 to 32.3 per cent. However, in all areas of the province, the average annual rate of return was still greater for farmland than that for the stock market. For more information about this Farming for the Future funded projected, contact Alberta Agriculture's research division at 427-1956.

STAMPEDE DAIRY CLASSIC AND AGGIE DAYS

The annual Calgary Stampede Dairy Classic runs April 18 through 22 at the Stampede Park Agriculture Pavilion. Cattle will be on display throughout the five day event. Jersey, Ayrshire and Holstein classes will run April 20 and 21. Aggie Days, held in conjunction with the Classic (Thursday through Saturday), offers educational programs designed to provide an all-senses and hands on agricultural experience for children. Displays include farm safety, heavy horses, cow milking, flour milling, miniature horses, llamas, poultry and rabbits, hay and seed, recycling and beef cattle. For more information, contact the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede agricultural administration at 261-0162.

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

MAY -3 1990

April 16, 1990

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

April 16, 1990
For immediate release

Farms wanted for school tours

Agriculture is Alberta's most important industry but the sights, smells and feel of the farm are something most urban youngsters don't have a chance to experience.

"Through the Ag in Classroom program many teachers are bringing agriculture into the classroom, and if they had the chance, more elementary teachers would extend their classrooms out to the farm," says Betty Gabert, Alberta Agriculture's Ag in Classroom co-ordinator.

So, Gabert is putting out a call to farmers who are willing to have school groups come and visit their farms. "Because so many teachers are desperately looking for farms to tour, we're asking farmers to consider sharing their business and way of life with young students to give them a better understanding of an important part of our province."

Farmers in rural areas should contact local elementary schools directly about offering their farms for tours, she says. Farm families near large urban areas can contact Gabert in Edmonton at 427-2403. "So farmers aren't deluged with telephone calls, we'll give our volunteer farm families a list of schools in their area who would like a tour," she says.

Farm families can request the Agriculture in the Classroom "tour tips" to help them give tours. Part of the package is an activity kit to send schools about safety, the importance of following the leader and improving observation skills. The tour tip package is also available by contacting Gabert.

"Most schools are interested in having tours in May and June, so that's something to keep in mind if you are considering volunteering," Gabert says.

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Contact: Betty Gabert
427-2403

April 16, 1990
For immediate release

Livestock deferral plan extended

The federal government has extended a program allowing farmers to defer their income from selling breeding stock in a drought year for another year.

"Producers who used the program in 1988 to defer their income to 1989 will be offered an additional deferral to 1990, if their farm is within a designated area," says Merle Good, a farm tax specialist with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds. "As well, producers who sold part of their breeding herd in 1989 will also be eligible to defer their income until 1990."

Announced in 1988, the drought induced sales of breeding animals program allowed producers who sold at least 15 per cent of their breeding herd in a drought year a partial income deferral until the next taxation year. This deferral period can be extended to subsequent years if the producer lives in a continued designated drought area.

The deferral is a deduction of proceeds from breeding stock sales. If the farmer sold between 15 and 30 per cent of his breeding stock, he could deduct 30 per cent of the proceeds. A 90 per cent deferral could be made if breeding stock was reduced by 30 per cent or more in a year. The deferral applies to the difference between sales and any purchase of breeding animals in a year.

In 1988, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba were described as drought areas. This program extension, however, applies only to producers in designated areas of the three Prairie provinces. These areas were determined by forage yields in the federal/provincial crop insurance program.

The qualifying areas in the province of Alberta are: Improvement District No.1; the Counties of Forty Mile, Lethbridge, Vulcan, Newell, Wheatland and Vermilion River; the Municipal Districts of Taber, Willow Creek, Foothills, Acadia, Provost and Wainwright; and, Special Areas No. 2,3 and 4.

(Cont'd)

Livestock deferral plan extension (cont'd)

Eligible producers should ask for the deferral when filing their 1989 Income Tax return, says Good. "If you've already filed, then write to your district taxation office and request the appropriate adjustments."

For more information, contact Good in Olds at 556-4237.

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Contact: Merle Good
556-4237

April 16, 1990
For immediate release

Where to find the weather

Farmers can dial the Alberta Farm Weather Line or listen to Weatheradio Canada for their weather information says Alberta Agriculture's weather resource specialist.

"Producers can telephone one of six regional weather centers for the most current farm weather forecasts available," says Peter Dzikowski, of the conservation and development branch in Edmonton.

Alberta's Farm Weather Line, in it's sixth season of operation, brings farmers across the province up-to-date agricultural weather forecasts. A co-operative service between Alberta Agriculture and Environment Canada's Atmospheric Environment Service, the line expanded to six locations last October. It also began experimental year round operation last fall after being limited to the crop season between April and October.

The recorded forecasts farmers hear include the same information the public hears such as expected high and low temperatures and possibility of precipitation, but additional information is provided on wind speed and direction, drying index and relative humidity. Farmers say they prefer the detail in the agricultural forecast to the more general forecast because it gives them better information for planning their work, says Dzikowski.

Forecasts specific to each region are updated four times daily at 5:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. The lines aren't toll-free and long distance charges apply if calls are made from outside the local calling area. The six Farm Weather Lines are: Grande Prairie, 539-7654; Edmonton, 468-9196; Calgary, 295-1003; Lethbridge 328-RAIN (7246); Medicine Hat, 526-6224 and Coronation 57-TEMPS (578-3677).

Dzikowski says the service is well-used. "In 1989 each line received an average of 168 calls every day. We've seen a steady increase in this use over the years. In 1988, for example, the average number of calls was 128 and in 1987, 114 daily calls.

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"The popularity of the year-round line means farmers may sometimes have trouble connecting with it, getting a busy signal. Farmers in the Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge areas have the option of using Weatheradio Canada, instead," he says.

Weatheradio Canada is a dedicated VHF-FM radio broadcast system transmitted on a frequency of 162.4, 162.475 or 162.55 megahertz (MHz). The Environment Canada service provides continuous, up-to-date weather forecast information.

"A special weatheradio receiver, which costs about $60, is needed to receive the broadcast," Dzikowski points out.

The Weatheradio signal can be received within about 50 to 60 km of Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge, he says. As well, since transmissions operate by line of sight, reception may be poor in low-lying areas such as river valleys. "If you are considering getting a weatheradio receiver make sure it works at your location before you buy. If the signal is weak, an external antenna may help," he says.

Dzikowski also recommends buying a receiver with a warning alert feature and a battery back-up power source. Another preferred feature is a switch, instead of a dial to select the broadcast frequency.

For more information about the Farm Weather Line or Weatheradio Canada, contact Dzikowski in Edmonton at 422-4385.

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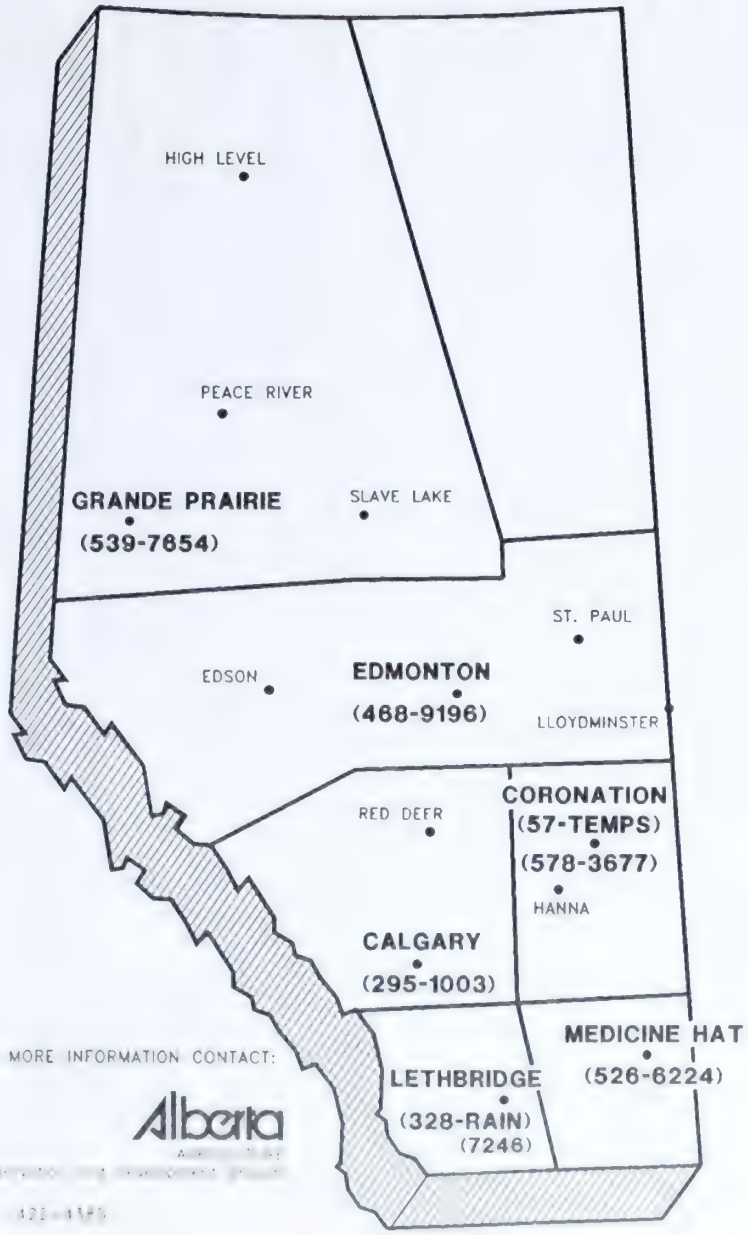
Editor's note: Maps are attached outlining the areas of the regional weather lines and the areas Weatheradio serves.

Contact: Peter Dzikowski
422-4385

AGRI-NEWS

Alberta Agriculture, Information Services Division

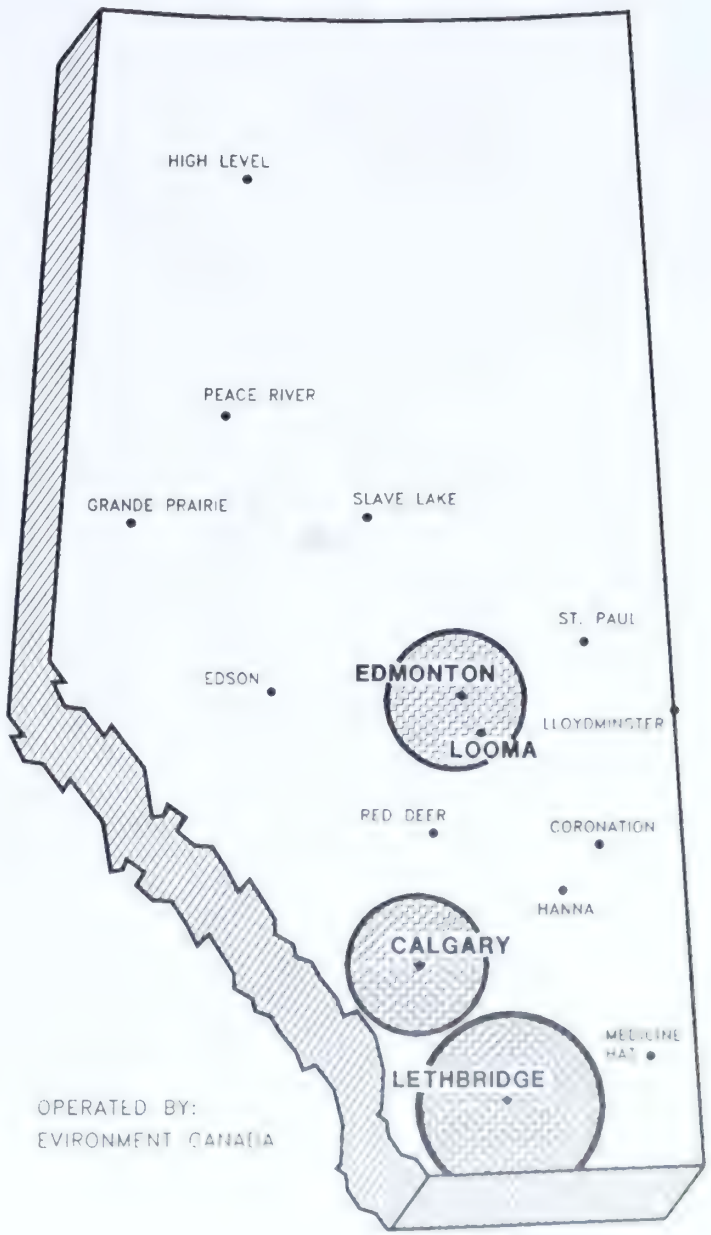
FARM WEATHER LINE



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Alberta

WEATHERADIO CANADA



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EVIRONMENT CANADA

April 16, 1990
For immediate release

Insect wars ease slightly on two fronts

Few cutworm problems and a decreased Russian wheat aphid population are expected this year says an Alberta Agriculture entomologist.

"These insect pests have been co-operatively monitored by Agriculture Canada and our department," says Jim Jones, of the crop protection branch.

Pale western cutworms, redbacked cutworms and army cutworms are monitored using sex attract moth traps during the seasonal flight period of each pest species.

Serious problems with pale western cutworms aren't expected except for particularly susceptible fields in Three Hills, Empress and perhaps Lethbridge areas, he says. "This species is at about the same level as last year. Fields that were recropped or continuously cropped, were harvested early or have a history of cutworm problems are the ones most likely to be infested." Except for gardens and special crops, only occasional damage has been caused by redbacked cutworms. Problems aren't expected in 1990, he adds.

Last year was the first year army cutworms were monitored province wide. The sometimes important pest in southern Alberta has been monitored in the Lethbridge area since 1978. "Catches there in the fall of 1989 were the highest to date and one infestation in winter wheat has already been reported, so there might be some risk in southern Alberta in 1990," Jones says. Winter wheat and fall rye grown on mustard or canola stubble is especially worth watching, he adds.

Clover cutworms and beet webworm aren't part of the monitoring program but were abundant last year, notes Jones. One indicator is plenty of their weed hosts--Russian thistle, lamb's-quarters and redroot pigweed--in the previous year, he adds.

Despite relatively high numbers of Russian wheat aphids in southern Alberta winter wheat fields in the fall, Jones says it's unlikely aphids have survived the spring thaw.

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"Infestation levels were up to 40 per cent infested plants, but before the heavy snowfall in early March, aphid numbers had declined to one in 200 plants. High humidities under melting snow and rapid freeze-thaw cycles seem to cause the aphid population decline. This phenomenon has been observed in other parts of North America.

"At the end of March, no aphids were found in winter wheat plots. But, it may still be too soon to say the species hasn't survived the winter in southern Alberta," he says.

For more information about insect pests, contact Jones in Brooks at 362-3391.

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Contact: Jim Jones
362-3391

April 16, 1990
For immediate release

Research group offers $1,000 for spider syndrome rams

Finding a live ram with spider syndrome has been a difficult part of a research project for an Alberta Sheep Breeders Association committee.

Just over two years ago, the association established a spider syndrome committee to look at the debilitating disease. The committee has a lofty goal: prevention and eradication of the disease that has plagued other Canadian provinces and countries. It set up a flock of carrier ewes at Olds College in central Alberta and began progeny tests. But research efforts have been hampered by the weakness of spider syndrome rams, says Cathy Gallivan, Alberta Agriculture sheep specialist and a committee member.

The program has already had two rams donated but both died quite quickly. The disease makes animals weak and keeping a ram alive long enough for it be bred naturally or artificially to a ewe has been the program's biggest challenge.

To continue its research efforts, the committee is appealing to breeders in Canada and the United States to donate a spider syndrome ram. Through the association, the committee is offering $1,000 for a viable fertile spider ram. Anyone who believes they have such a ram can contact the committee by calling Gallivan at (403)948-8517.

The research project is designed to help producers test rams before they are used on registered ewe flocks. But to maintain a spider ewe flock, a viable or collectable ram is needed, says Edith Williams, a central Alberta producer and president of the Alberta Sheep Breeders Association.

"The spider disease has had major economic ramifications on sheep flocks in North America and all or any help for producers is most welcome," she adds.

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Researchers have concluded spider syndrome is an inherited condition. It isn't caused by feed, drugs or other part of its environment. It's also suspected the syndrome is inherited exactly the same way as the dwarf condition in cattle, with certain animals able to carry the spider syndrome and transfer it to its offspring without actually showing the condition itself.

Spider syndrome is a crippling birth defect most common in Suffolk sheep. Lambs are born with deformed skeletons. The most common deformity is an extreme outward bending of the front legs. Other symptoms include crooked spines, deformed rear legs and rib cages and marked roman noses. Animals are often extremely long-legged with little body capacity. They grow slowly and suffer a general degeneration of skeletal muscle.

Affected animals appear to be susceptible to bone fractures and infectious diseases and subsequently have a high death rate. While some lambs appear relatively normal at birth, signs of spider syndrome will develop by the time they are one month old.

The only definite diagnosis of spider syndrome is by an x-ray of the lamb's elbows. X-rays reveal signs of the disease including multiple islands or sites of bone deposition throughout the cartilage and bone with no uniform direction or pattern.

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Contact: Edith Williams
784-3511

Cathy Gallivan
948-8517

April 16, 1990
For immediate release

Petro-Canada pitches in for 4-H

Alberta 4-H clubs will have people pitching for dollars as part of a new fund raising venture supported by Petro-Canada.

The Petro-Canada Playball booth, part of the company's community event display, will be visiting about 40 Alberta communities. The company has donated the Playball booth's use to 4-H clubs in those communities, says Ted Youck, head of Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch.

"For their donation, Petro-Canada asks local 4-H club members to man and operate the booth when it's in their community and in return they will receive the proceeds from the playball game," says Youck. District 4-H councils and Petro-Canada dealers will co-ordinate the booth's stop in each area.

Money is raised from a game that pits participant against radar measuring the speed of their pitch. For a one dollar donation, contestants get three chances to top 70 mph and win a Petro-Canada sponsored prize.

The Playball booth was launched in early March by Youck, Gordon Fuhr and Gordon Schaber, members of the Alberta 4-H Council, and Larry Maydonik, of Petro-Canada. Maydonik, wholesale marketing sales manager for Alberta and an avid 4-H supporter, proposed the project.

This isn't the only project that joins 4-H and the energy company, notes Youck. Through the continuing 4-H Petro-Canada glove sale, one dollar from every pair of protective gloves sold goes to the 4-H foundation of Alberta. Last year approximately 15,000 pairs of gloves were sold across the Prairies. Petro-Canada farm supply bulk station operators have more information about the program.

As well, Petro-Canada sponsors 25 $1,000 4-H Youth Leadership award scholarships. Four of the scholarships are awarded in Alberta. More information about these scholarship is available from regional 4-H specialists.

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Contact: Ted Youck
427-2541

April 16, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL MATFP CONFERENCE

Participants at Alberta Agriculture's 1990 Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit (MATFP) conference gave it high marks says the conference co-ordinator. "We're very pleased with how the participants evaluated the conference--100 per cent of the responses were in the excellent and good columns. Seventy-six per cent rated the conference as excellent," says Trish Pannell. Attendance was down slightly this year, but Pannell says organizers were pleased both at the return rate and the first time attendance of 38 per cent. The conference is designed in particular for farm couples to learn more about trends, issues and challenges facing the agriculture industry. Seventy-eight per cent of this year's participants attended the conference as a couple. Tim Ball, a University of Winnipeg professor, was again one of the conference's most popular speakers. Participants also described his Greenhouse effect update and geopolitics sessions as among the most useful. Participants also gave high marks to sessions on food quality and safety, personal behavior styles, life insurance and one-page management as well as keynote opening and closing speakers. Participants also indicated they preferred the Kananaskis location for next year's conference, she says. "We're looking forward to a full house and top caliber speakers at MATFP'91." she adds. Production, marketing, financial and human resource and other farm business management topics are in the spotlight at the annual conference. For more information, contact Pannell in Olds at 556-4240.

WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE VIDEO

Gathering Strength, two programs produced by the National Film Board dealing with problems facing women in agriculture, has been added to Alberta Agriculture Film Library. The first program, In her Chosen Field, discusses what's been called agriculture's invisible subsidy, the

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WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE VIDEOS (cont'd)

unpaid labor of women and children. A Time to Reap focuses on the movement for women's equality in agriculture with a heavy emphasis on Quebec. Originally produced in French, it has been overdubbed in English. For lending information, write the Film Library at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6. Please quote VT 305-1.

STRAW AN IMPORTANT FEED SOURCE?

In the future straw could become an important feed source for ruminants says an Agriculture Canada researcher. K.J. Cheng has been researching problems related to using straw in feed with assistance from Alberta Agriculture's Farming for the Future program. There are two basic problems: straw doesn't breakdown easily in an animals' stomach and it doesn't contain enough nitrogen to provide the animal with a good balance of nutrients. Keng says neither biological enhancement or chemical pretreatment of straw alone can make straw a self-sufficient ruminant feed. However, his research has broken ground in how to convert straw into an effective feed in the future. During the study the Lethbridge based scientist carefully examined how micro-organisms attach themselves to the straw inside an animal's stomach. Following this, attention shifted to finding new ways to accelerate the attachment process. "These recent observations raised the possibility, which we have explored in this study, that the colonization and digestion of straw in the rumen may be manipulated," he says. For more information on Farming for the Future projects, contact Alberta Agriculture's research division at 427-1956.

ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The Alberta Agriculture Economics Association (AAEA) is holding its annual conference on the outlook for agricultural policy and finance in Canada May 1 and 2 in Red Deer. Trends and issues in agricultural policy and finance are highlighted by conference speakers. The conference

(Cont'd)

ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE (cont'd)
targets interest and concerns of producers groups, agribusiness, government post-secondary instructors and students. Among the conference topics are: the Greenhouse effect and agriculture; the Alberta pork packing industry; future water resource legislation; the Goods and Services Tax (GST); Saskatchewan and British Columbia farm policy outlooks; biotechnology; wildlife-agriculture conflicts; and, extension services into the next century. For more information and advance registration contact, Monica Ulmer in Calgary at 275-8558.

NEW TRIPLE-8 ELEVATOR IN OLDS

A new elevator design, called the Triple-8, is being built by United Grain Growers (UGG) in Olds. The new elevator replaces one destroyed by fire. The Triple-8 design refers to three key components of the elevator: high capacity, high throughput and high loadout rate. The elevator will have a capacity of 8,000 tonnes, a yearly throughput of 80,000 tonnes and will be able to load a hopper car in 8 minutes. It will cost over $2.5 million. Construction is estimated to be completed in October. When finished, it will have the fastest loadout of any country elevator in Western Canada, says Tom Mackie, UGG western area manager. For more information, contact Mackie in Calgary at 250-7200.

TREE BIOLOGY WORKSHOP AT OLDS COLLEGE

World renowned tree expert Alex Shigo will conduct a workshop at Olds College May 21 through 24. The new tree biology workshop is a unique opportunity for tree care professionals to take an in depth look at trees. Participants will study the tree in 3D, the living network in wood, the cambial zone, construction of bark, branch anatomy and development of structural defects among other topics. There is a course limit of 20 participants for the intensive hands-on instruction. For more details, contact Geraldine Byrne at 556-8321 or Olds College extension services at 556-8344.

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

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This Week

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

April 23, 1990
For immediate release

Treated seed grain hazardous to livestock

Treated seed grain is the second leading cause of cattle poisoning deaths, so farmers need to be careful how they handle and store pesticide-treated seed stock says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

Roy Smith, a toxicologist with the department's animal health division, says treated grains and oilseeds can cause illness or death if accidentally eaten by livestock. "There have been instances where entire cattle herds have died after getting into treated seed. Even dogs and cats are at risk."

Smith says the problem is widespread in the province. The toxicology lab has seen numerous cases of this poisoning in the last few years. Lindane or carbofuran seed treatments are most commonly linked to animal deaths.

Treated grains are usually dyed to alert the farmer a pesticide has been added to the seed. The most common colors are blue and red, and canola seed is involved more frequently than any other seed. However, in some cases no dye has been added to the treated seed and the seeds look normal.

"Farmers not only have to be careful in their own yards, but also be aware of mysterious piles of grain or canola in pastures. We've seen instances where cattle have eaten excess seed that has been dumped or left near or in a pasture," says Smith.

Cattlemen can look to magpies for a clue about spilled or dumped treated seed, he says. "Often the first animals to arrive at a spill or dump site are magpies, so if you see a very sorry looking or very sick or dead magpie flock you should investigate." Warble control measures can also lead to sick magpies, he adds, but in a typical treated grain case a dozen or more magpies, rather than a bird or two, may be affected.

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Contact: Roy Smith
427-3981

April 23, 1990
For immediate release

1990 custom rates survey available

If you're budgeting or setting a custom work or leasing rate, Alberta Agriculture has a guide to help you.

Custom rates for a wide variety of farm work from tillage to harvesting are summarized in the "Custom Rates Survey Summary 1990" (Agdex 825-90). The guide lists common rates for 1989 as well as the range of rates and also compares those rates to ones for 1988. Regional differences are also noted.

Among the custom rates in the survey are tillage, seeding, fertilizer application, herbicide application, grain harvesting, haying, silage, grain processing, livestock hauling, corral cleaning, fencing, landbreaking and clearing. Rates for machinery rental, cropland leasing and pastureland leasing are also presented in the publication in a summary form.

"These 1989 rates are useful information to use as a guide for custom rates or leasing rates in 1990. They aren't intended for use as recommended or fair rates. They are simply the rates that people answering the survey said they were charging for custom work and leasing," says Craig Edwards, a farm management economist at Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds.

The surveys were conducted by Maureen Whitlock of the statistics branch who collected and compiled the data. Edwards summarized the data for the publication.

The "Custom Rates Survey Summary 1990" is available at Alberta Agriculture district offices or from the Alberta Agriculture Publications Office at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact: Craig Edwards
556-4248

April 23, 1990
For immediate release

Frame your compost pile

Composting waste to enrich soil isn't a new practice, but it's gaining popularity with a more environmentally conscious public.

"People want to compost, but aren't sure of the best way to go about it," says Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre. Through the composting process, raw organic material is converted into a useful soil additive. When added to the soil, it loosens soil and makes it easier to work. As well, putting organic "garbage" into a compost pile instead of conventional garbage disposal contributes to a better environment.

"To start, we recommend building a frame because it keeps the pile neater and more compact," North says. The frame can be built from a variety of materials. Pressure treated wood or cedar can be used to make the basic frame. Sides can be either plywood or wire. The compost dries out more quickly with wire sides, she says. While the frame should hold about a cubic metre, it's not recommended that the structure be any deeper than about a 1.5 metres (about five feet), she says.

North says most kitchen scraps are suitable for the compost pile. Those scraps include vegetable peelings, egg shells, tea bags and coffee grounds. "But don't add meat and dairy products," she says.

Garden refuse such as grass clippings and leaves can also be used in the compost pile. All large pieces of material should be chopped or shredded. North has two precautions. "It's not recommended to use diseased plant materials in the compost pile. As well, if you've used a herbicide on your lawn to kill dandelions or other weeds, cut the lawn at least twice before using clippings in the compost pile," she says.

For best results these materials should be layered 15 to 20 cm deep. "Sprinkle soil between layers to add microbes that will speed up decomposition. A compost starter or fertilizer such as 21-0-0 or 16-20-0 will also aid decomposition," she says.

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Turning the pile once a week to add oxygen is important. As well, turning brings outer materials into the center and speeds up decomposition." To work best, the pile should be kept moist, she says, but it shouldn't be soggy.

Composting is a relatively slow process. "If you start a compost pile this spring it should be ready to spread over your garden by late fall, or the following spring," says North.

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Contact: Pam North
472-6043

April 9, 1990
For immediate release

Cholesterol stirs diet debate

Cholesterol has become the focus of conversation from car pools to local coffee shops.

"So many people talking about cholesterol shows how it has become a modern dilemma," says Aileen Whitmore, Alberta Agriculture provincial foods and nutrition specialist.

Health and medical authorities have focused on high blood cholesterol as a risk factor in heart disease and on changing diet to improve our chances of living longer lives, she says. "And the experts are embroiled in a highly visible argument about whether blood cholesterol levels should be lowered in all people."

As the debate continues about cholesterol it's important that sound science provide the guiding light for consumers, she says. "Blood cholesterol is just one risk factor in the development of heart disease and should be viewed in context with other important factors such as obesity and exercise," she says.

Age, gender and heredity are significant but uncontrollable factors in heart disease. High blood pressure and smoking are significant and controllable risks. "These controllable risks have lost their weight in the wave of publicity on cholesterol. Any well-balanced approach to the prevention of heart disease must emphasize all of these factors."

Whitmore also points out that experts believe the saturated, or the hard fats, we consume are more important than dietary cholesterol. Canola oil, for example, is an unsaturated fat. When processed into a hard margarine, however, it becomes a saturated fat. The hydrogenation process changes its chemical composition to make it solid.

"While experts argue and researchers test their theories in the lab, we all still need to eat and make the healthy choices about how we eat. Putting the research puzzle pieces together may take years, but we can still use available facts, such as the Canada Food Guide, to eat well.

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"The practical answer for most consumers may be simpler than they think. Dietary extremes don't make sense. The wisest approach is middle-of-the-road to ensure that we're getting a balance of nutrients from a variety of foods, in moderate portions. That's the foundation of a healthy diet," says Whitmore.

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Contact: Aileen Whitmore
427-2412

April 23, 1990
For immediate release

Preparing, planting vegetable gardens

Spring fever to many gardeners is getting their garden plot ready for the new season's vegetable crop says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Weather permitting, many people have already been out digging their gardens getting ready to plant," says Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre in Edmonton.

Often people want to know what they should add to their soil before they seed their gardens, she says. Adding organic matter such as peat moss, well rotted manure or compost will improve the soil. "Add at least one-half inch of organic matter once every two years. If the soil is hard, add two to three inches each year until the soil loosens up.

"Have soil tested occasionally to check the level of nutrients, pH and salts. Without the test, an all purpose fertilizer, such as 16-20-0 is usually a good bet."

North reminds gardeners some vegetables can be planted earlier than others. "You can seed lettuce, spinach, onions, garlic, beets, carrots and swiss chard in late April or early May. Cole crops such as broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and radish can also be direct seeded at that time."

Other vegetables should be seeded later in May. The list includes: corn, May 20; squash, pumpkin, cucumber, May 20; and, bush beans, May 25.

Cole crop transplants should be planted out about May 20. Peppers and tomatoes can be transplanted at the same time as long as they are protected from frost. One method of frost protection is a hotcap, a transparent paper cap made from a material similar to heavy wax paper and reinforced with wire. A hotcap works like a small greenhouse and will provide two to three degrees of frost protection.

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Contact: Pam North
472-6043

April 23, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

SWINE BREEDING CENTRE CHANGES NAME

The Alberta Swine Breeding Centre has changed its name to the Alberta Swine Artificial Insemination (AI) Centre. Located in Leduc and opened in January 1978, the centre was the first artificial insemination centre in western Canada. Through the centre, Alberta pork producers have access to semen from top quality performance tested boars. The centre also provides international and Canadian buyers with a reliable supply of fresh and frozen semen from tested and proven sires. The centre's telephone number is 986-1250 and its facsimile machine number is 986-6523. For more information, call Sam Harbison, the centre's manager, at 986-1250.

FERTILIZER, WEATHER AND PRODUCTIVITY

Increased productivity because of increased fertilizer use may be making farmers less vulnerable to changes in the weather says a University of Alberta researcher. "Productivity in the Prairie grain sector is estimated to have grown by some one to one and half per cent per year from the early 1960s to the mid-1980s," says Terry Veeman, an economics professor. Veeman studied productivity changes between 1948 and 1984 with financial assistance from Farming for the Future. His research focused on the ways of measuring the productivity of the Prairie grain economy and what they mean. In this research, technology was theorized as the primary influence on long run crop productivity and weather variables were seen to be the cause of short run productivity fluctuations. He says his results suggest "changes in technology associated with increased fertilizer use may be reducing the adverse effects of weather on productivity." However, he adds, "grain farming, as Prairie farmers know all too well, remains--to a considerable degree, at least on the supply side--a gamble on the rains." He also notes how

(Cont'd)

FERTILIZER, WEATHER AND PRODUCTIVITY (cont'd)

important improving productivity is to Prairie farmers. "Advances in productivity are of crucial importance to Prairie farmers if they are to retain and improve their competitive position in both domestic and international markets." For more information on this and other Farming for the Future projects, contact Alberta Agriculture's research division at 427-1956.

ANNUAL UNIVERSITY SWINE DAY

The University of Alberta's animal science department will be holding its 69th annual swine feeders' day May 31 at the University of Alberta Farm in Edmonton. In the morning, department staff will make a number of presentations covering carcass quality, reproduction, feed quality, feed management, animal welfare, housing and waste management. There will also be time to view commercial displays, posters and demonstrations as well as visit the university farm piggery and other units. Demonstrations will be repeated every half hour starting at 2 p.m. Demonstrations will include practical computer record keeping, castration of young boars, liquid milk feeding systems for orphan or early weaned pigs, pregnancy diagnosis and backfat measurements using different probes. In the afternoon, three expert panels on the topics of health and welfare, nutrition and housing and reproduction and artificial insemination will be on hand to answer questions. A $20 registration fees includes a lunch and barbeque. For more information, write the University of Alberta, Department of Animal Science, 310 Agriculture/Forestry Building, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2P5 or call 492-3232.

SPRINGTIME GARDEN CLEAN-UP

Cold winter temperatures kill many garden plants, but disease organisms that attack those plants may still overwinter says an Alberta Agriculture specialist. Powdery mildew, rusts and many other foliar

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

SPRINGTIME GARDEN CLEANUP (cont'd)

diseases are caused by fungi that produce spores or other overwintering structures in or on infested plant debris says Jim Holley, a post-harvest specialist at the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks. "If this debris is allowed to remain on or near the soil surface, these pathogens have a good chance of living through the winter. This can results in a recurrence of disease problems the following year," Holley says. A good spring cleanup of yard and garden refuse helps prevent infection of both new and established plants. Where practical, debris should be turned under completely and allowed to decompose or it should be composted. Severely diseased plant material should be burned or discarded and not composted. Disease-causing organisms that live naturally in the soil won't be controlled by discarding, turning under or composting plant debris, Holley says. It may be possible to avoid these diseases by using a crop rotation or planting resistant varieties. It's also a good idea to routinely change the relative location where specific vegetables and annual flowers are planted to avoid the buildup of disease-causing organisms. Small garden areas heavily infested with soil-borne diseases may have to be abandoned for a new location, he adds. For more information contact Holley in Brooks at 362-3391.

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AGRI-NEWS

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For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

April 30, 1989
For immediate release

Isley opens $4.9 million research center expansion

Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley and Bow Valley MLA Tom Musgrove officially opened a $4.9 million renovation and expansion at the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks on Friday (April 27).

The P. D. Hargrave Building was the first building constructed at the center in 1954. Its existing laboratory and office space has been upgraded and over 1400 square metres of new laboratory space added.

"This upgrading and expansion will allow scientists at the center to conduct active research programs on a year-round basis. Their work is extremely important to the future of agriculture in our province and these new and renovated facilities will permit them to pursue the center's mandate--crop diversification--more effectively," says Isley.

New laboratory space includes growth chambers, a rapid propagation laboratory, controlled environment storage facilities, post-harvest and food processing laboratories and a central atrium area. The growth chamber complex allows complete control of environmental conditions for plant growth experiments. Research facilities for controlled environmental storage had been lacking, but the center's scientists will now be able to conduct research on fresh market vegetables and investigate other crops suited to that type of storage. As well, the pilot processing facility will provide researchers with an opportunity to work more closely with horticultural and special crops processors to address industry problems.

"The Brooks research center has been an important part of the province's agricultural community and industry. Southern Alberta farmers, in particular, will look forward to the results of its new research capabilities," says Musgrove.

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Among special guests expected at the official opening is the building's namesake, Dr. Duncan Hargrave. Hargrave was superintendent of the center's predecessor, the Provincial Horticultural Station, between 1936 and 1970.

The Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center is an applied research and problem solving branch of Alberta Agriculture. Center staff work directly with horticultural and special crop producers and processors to promote greater strength and diversity in Alberta's agricultural industry.

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Contact: Brad Klak
Executive Assistant
to the Minister
427-2137

Tom Musgrove
MLA, Bow Valley
427-1830

Thomas Krahn
362-3391

April 30, 1990
For immediate release

U.S. Alberta Beef team strikes again

The Alberta Beef team has found success in another western U.S. market.

Alberta beef packers, the Alberta Cattle Commission, Alberta Agriculture and Agriculture Canada team together to co-operatively take a message about Alberta's lean beef to selected American markets. The team's most recent stop was last month in Salt Lake City, Utah. A test load has already been shipped and more sales are expected, says Dave Rous, team leader and Alberta Agriculture trade director.

"The packers say the Salt Lake seminars were some of the most positive seminars the team has given to date," says Rous. At each seminar, representatives of retailers, wholesalers or distributors and brokers are treated to an Alberta Beef dinner where they learn more about the entire Alberta Beef industry as well as the Canadian inspection and grading system. Cuts of beef are displayed and packing company representatives are available to answer questions.

The team seminar approach has been paying dividends. Between June, 1989 and the end of March, 1990 over $2.5 million in new beef business has been done as a result of seminars in Minneapolis, Phoenix and Salt Lake City. "The new business is significant, but the fact these sales were all high quality grade A value-added boxed beef means the sales contribute to diversifying agriculture and building Alberta's meat processing industry," says Rous.

"These sales are also key to continued growth of Alberta Beef sales in the United States," he adds. In 1989, Alberta sold just under $70 million of fresh, chilled and frozen beef to the United States. Alberta companies hope to reach $100 million in sales by 1992.

"Through the seminars we identify new markets and help with initial contacts, but it's up to the packers to keep the contacts hot and the business going," Rous says.

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Salt Lake City was chosen as a seminar location for a number of reasons, says Rous. "There are a good cross section of retailers in the market with two dominating chains, but also a good group of smaller retailers. We identified about seven potential customers.

"Some of the retailers and distributors were somewhat familiar with Canadian beef, but these seminars cleared up many questions they had about our industry and products.

"Also, the price of Alberta Beef is competitive with the products we target."

Potential market size was also an important factor. The Salt Lake City metropolitan area has a population of about 2.7 million and the city alone about 730,000. "Beef is a favorite in this basically 'meat and potatoes' market," he adds.

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Contact: Dave Rous
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April 30, 1990
For immediate release

Seed testing still key to fighting blackleg of canola

Testing canola seed for the virulent blackleg fungus is a key element in Alberta canola growers' fight to keep the disease from being introduced to non-infested land or into non-infested regions of the province says Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of plant pathology.

"All canola producers should ask for a copy of blackleg test results when buying seed for planting this year," says Ieuan Evans, of the crop protection branch.

Over 1,000 samples of certified canola seed intended for seeding this year in the province have undergone laboratory analysis for virulent blackleg. All samples were negative for the disease, he says.

"Blackleg free seed, along with the insurance of fungicidal seed treatment and observance of a four year crop rotation will hold this destructive disease in check," says Evans. "Also essential is a four year crop rotation where volunteer canola and mustard are controlled. Growers using rotations that keep canola off land for three years will prevent this disease from becoming established on their land."

Surveys for virulent blackleg of canola in the three Prairie provinces last year showed blackleg infestation of canola land was at 60 per cent in Manitoba, over 90 per cent in Saskatchewan and less than three per cent overall in Alberta.

"These results continue to justify the soundness of Alberta Agriculture's approach towards controlling this most destructive disease of canola," he says.

Seed growers who submit canola samples to any of the six approved private seed testing laboratories are refunded $20 by Alberta Agriculture for each sample undergoing a blackleg test.

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Contact: Ieuan Evans
427-7098

April 30, 1990
For immediate release

Many ways to conserve soil pursued

"Conservation Matters" isn't just the title of a new bi-monthly soil conservation newsletter Alberta farmers will soon see in their mailboxes, it's also the theme of a renewed interest in techniques and technologies of conservation farming.

"Alberta's farmers and ranchers have been conscious of soil as one of our most valuable resources since prairie and parkland soils were first cultivated," says Randy Bjorklund, provincial co-ordinator of the Canada-Alberta Soil Conservation Initiative (CASCI).

"Weather and economic conditions of recent years have contributed to a reawakened interest in soil erosion and appropriate land use beyond the strong sense of land stewardship that has always existed," adds Alan Stewart, CASCI's federal co-ordinator.

There are many ways to conserve Alberta soils, Bjorklund says and new conservation technology and methods are being investigated and demonstrated. "In response to producer interest and the continuing need for producers to practice good soil conservation, agricultural service boards (ASBs) and conservation-minded producer organizations are carrying out a large number of soil conservation and on-farm water management demonstration activities this spring, summer and fall."

The driving force behind many of the projects is CASCI, he says. The joint federal/provincial agreement has committed $34.8 million to support soil conservation in Alberta between 1989 and 1992. "With CASCI funding, ASBs and conservation groups can focus on practical, cost effective soil conservation practices," he says.

Through the winter, CASCI funding helped with on-farm conservation planning, open houses, courses and meetings across the province. Through the growing season, demonstration plots, field days, tours and displays will take place. "These events will both answer and re-ask the question: how many practical ways are there to conserve our soils and prevent further degradation?" he says.

(Cont'd)

Many ways to conserve soil pursued (cont'd)

The "Conservation Matters" newsletter will highlight these techniques and technologies as well as promote events with a soil conservation focus. The publication will be available to all Alberta producers.

Stewart says radio, television, newspapers and newsletters will also be used by ASBs and producer conservation groups to inform producers about local, regional and provincial events.

For more information about soil conservation activities in your area, contact your local Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist, agricultural fieldman, regional soil conservation co-ordinator or Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) area conservationist.

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Contact: Randy Bjorklund
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Alan Stewart
495-3307

April 30, 1990
For immediate release

Isley announces funding for Alberta food processor

Agriculture minister Ernie Isley has announced Wing's Food of Alberta Ltd. received $249,600 in federal/provincial assistance to help defray costs involved in an expansion of the company's plant and operations.

The Edmonton-based food processing company started its $2 million expansion project in 1987. The expansion has enabled Wirg's Foods to begin portion-packing of coffee whiteners, honey, jams, jellies and other products. The project has generated 20 jobs and sales from the new operations have been approximately $1.4 million to date.

Funding announced by Isley is the final payment of an assistance package totalling more than $469,000, provided to Wing's Foods through the Agricultural Processing and Marketing Agreement (AMPA).

"I am very pleased that the Alberta and federal governments have been able to provide assistance toward this project. The expansion of Wing's Foods is an important step toward the Government of Alberta's goal of increasing value-added activity in the province," Isley said in his announcement.

APMA is a cost-shared agreement between the federal and Alberta governments and is jointly administered by Alberta Agriculture and the federal Department of Western Economic Diversification. Through APMA, a total of approximately $32 million in assistance has been offered to more than 360 projects. With the review of current applications, funds available under the agreement will be fully subscribed so new applications for APMA assistance are no longer being accepted.

APMA is subsidiary to the Economic and Regional Development Agreement (ERDA) which provides for co-ordination and co-operation between the Governments of Canada and Alberta in areas concerning Alberta's economic development.

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Contact: Brad Klak
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Jim Wiebe
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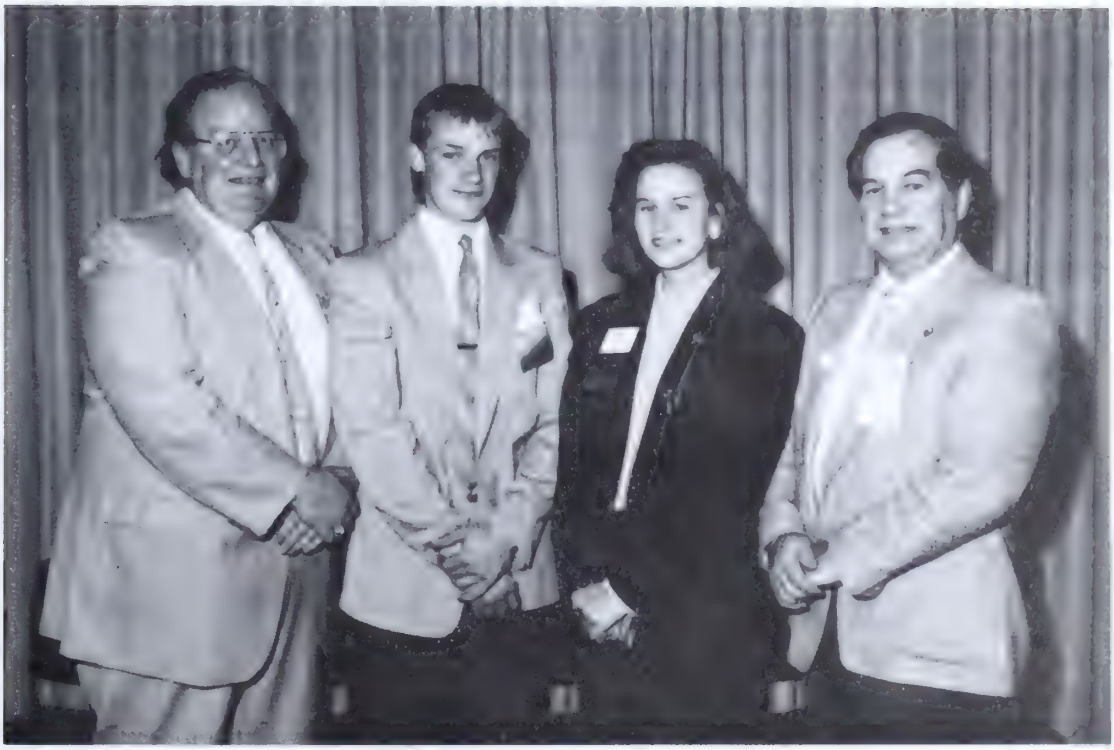
April 30, 1990
For immediate release

Lacombe 4-Her top speaker



Hendrik Wildeboer (second left) is the 1990 provincial 4-H public speaking champion. From left to right are: Jim Dokken, chairman of the youth speech and debate committee for the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede; Wildeboer; Jodie Thornhill, of Mossleigh, the runner-up; and Ted Youck, head of Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch.

This year's provincial champion 4-H public speaker is Hendrik Wildeboer of Lacombe.

The Lacombe Dairy 4-H Club member took top honors at the recent 4-H provincial public speaking championship held at Stampede Park in Calgary. Jodie Thornhill, of Mossleigh, placed second in the competition.

Fourteen finalists from rural Alberta competed at the public speaking finals. Each presented a prepared speech on a specific topic related to literacy and also displayed their speaking skills with impromptu speeches.

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Wildeboer's prepared speech was titled "Education--A priority" and his impromptu topic was advertising persuades people.

Communication training has special emphasis in the Alberta 4-H program says Anita Anderson, the 4-H branch's personal development specialist. "Competitive public speaking is one option in that emphasis," she adds.

This year's provincial event was sponsored by the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede and Alberta Agriculture.

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Contact: Anita Anderson
427-2541

April 30, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

DOWNY BROME COSTS ALBERTA FARMERS

Downy brome costs Alberta farmers more than $1 million every year says an Agriculture Canada researcher. Robert Blackshaw, a Lethbridge based weed scientist, says downy brome is a severe problem in both rangeland and cultivated crops and a lack of selective herbicides for the control of downy brome in winter cereals has aggravated the problem. Downy brome is a wide-ranging weed found throughout the western United States and Canada, and commonly causes winter wheat yield reductions of 20 to 40 per cent in the western United States. With help from a Farming for the Future grant, Blackshaw has examined the impact of downy brome on winter wheat under a range of conditions. This included incorporating different amounts of brome grass into wheat and varying the times the grass was introduced into the crop. The study also determined the effect of soil temperature and moisture on how well downy brome grew. The experiments have only been running a short time, still Blackshaw says early results are promising. Possible answers include herbicides providing selective control of downy brome in winter wheat, summerfallow and rotating winter wheat with a non-cereal crop including use of a herbicide capable of controlling downy brome. For more information on Farming for the Future projects, contact Alberta Agriculture's research division at 427-1956.

SPACE-AGE TECHNOLOGY VIDEO

When 13-year old Michael has to do a school project on agriculture, futuristic agent Ag Sci introduces him to the advanced technologies used in the production of crops, animals and food products. Student Michael learns farming has joined the space age with research scientists, computers, robots and satellites all part of the industry. The 12 minute video shows modern agriculture means studying everything--from

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SPACE-AGE TECHNOLOGY VIDEO (cont'd)

planetary weather problems to the microscopic world of gene splitting. The 1990 Alberta Agriculture production is narrated by Rob Christie. For lending information, write Alberta Agriculture Film Library, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 and quote VT-304.

INK A NEW MARKET FOR FLAX

A significant breakthrough in printing ink manufacturing will open new markets for flax says the Flax Council of Canada. The Council says there's a potential 95,000 bushel market for Canadian-grown flax to produce the new ink. The Council has put its seal on the recently introduced Canadian-developed ink, EcoTech. EcoTech, an environmentally-safe sheetfed printing ink, was developed by BASF Coatings and Inks. The ink is the first printing ink to receive the Flax Council's seal. The Council enters into licensing agreements with companies whose products include more than 10 percent of flax product. The agreement authorizes use of a flax seal on product packages and literature. To date, the council has certified 10 products including paint, linoleum and now printing ink. The revolutionary new ink was designed to replace volatile printing ink compounds with safe, renewable ingredients. More than 70 per cent of EcoTech's content is vegetable oils and plant resins. For more information, contact Albert Cantin of the Flax Council in Winnipeg at (204)947-1287.

MEASURING IRRIGATION WATER USAGE

To help promote efficient use of irrigation water, a Lethbridge engineer is testing a number of water meters to see if farmers can be charged by how much water they use, instead of how much land they irrigate. Joe Prozniak, of MPE Engineering, says currently irrigation districts charge an annual fee on a per acre basis. "Current trends suggest that this usage charge basis is not appropriate and that a usage

(Cont'd)

MEASURING IRRIGATION WATER USAGE (cont'd)

charge based on volume of water used is more appropriate." With support from the Farming for the Future program, MPE Engineering is in the second year of a project reviewing available options and selecting and testing those meters. Three types of meters have been tested to date. The flow measurement devices are being tested in the St. Mary River Irrigation District. "The long term benefit from developing this technology will be the ability for irrigation districts to measure and charge for actual volumes of water consumed by individual irrigators, allow for the reduction of waste flows and provide information to the individual farmers to assist in maximizing farm yields," says Prozniak. Meter testing will continue this summer. For more information about this and other Farming for the Future projects, contact the Alberta Agriculture research division at 427-1956.

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Coming Agricultural Events

1. Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions coming in June, July, August or later in 1990?. Please state the name of the event.

2. What are the dates?

3. Where is the event being held? Include city or town; hotel and convention centre if known.

4. Please give the name, city or town, and phone number of a contact person for each event listed.

5. This form has been completed by (organization/contact/telephone number):

Please return this form by May 24, 1990 to:
Agri-News Editor
Information Services Division
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6

(Coming Agricultural Events is published four times a year in Agri-News. The next edition will be printed June 4, 1990.)

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
MAY 22 1990

May 7, 1990

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

May 7, 1990
For immediate release

Ministers announce Summer Farm Employment Program

Alberta Career Development and Employment Minister Norm Weiss and Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan have announced the start of the 1990 Summer Farm Employment Program.

Since its introduction 19 years ago, the annual program has provided summer employment for more than 32,000 students, while helping farmers meet their seasonal labor requirements.

Through the program, any full-time Alberta farmers is eligible to hire a student and receive assistance in paying his or her wages. The Alberta government will pay half the employee's monthly wage to a maximum of $300 for each month of the program. The jobs are to run from July 3 through August 31, 1990.

"This program offers young Albertans an outstanding opportunity to learn new skills. Many students have gained their first work experience through the program. To others, the program has offered their first exposure to the business of farming," says Weiss.

"This is also an excellent opportunity from the farmer's point of view. By hiring students through the program, farmers are able to reduce their labor costs," adds McClellan.

Student applicants for jobs through the program must be 15 years of age or older. Farmers may not apply to employ family members.

Application forms are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices or from local Agriculture Employment Service offices. Applications from both farmers and students will be treated on a first-come, first-served basis and must be delivered to Agriculture Employment Service offices before May 31.

The program limit of 800 students is expected to be reached well before the final application date. Anyone interested in the program is urged to apply as soon as possible.

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Carole Shields
Executive Assistant
to Mr. Weiss
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May 7, 1990
For immediate release

Hog market in spring rally

North America's slaughter hog market has been the most exciting livestock market through the winter and spring says an Alberta Agriculture livestock market analyst.

"In late April, the U.S. Seven Markets price, a benchmark composite hog price, was 55 per cent above year-ago levels," says Ron Gietz in a quarterly report on the hog situation and outlook. "The current rally in hog prices can be compared to a similar rally in the late spring and summer of 1986, the only other time in recent history when hog prices have made such a large climb."

In both cases, now and in 1986, prices were rebounding from disastrously low levels and the strength of the rally was far greater than could be expected based on the typical supply response, he says. "Since the supply-side doesn't begin to explain the magnitude of the recent hog price increase in the United States, you have to look at demand-side factors.

"Increased U.S. pork exports have occurred at the same time as lower U.S. pork imports. Another likely factor is U.S. packing industry re-structuring. It has forced pork plants in the U.S. Midwest to aggressively compete for market hogs."

In Alberta, producer payment prices for Index 100 hogs averaged 22 per cent above 1989 first quarter levels. "But, you have to remember the first quarter of last year could be considered one for the worse price periods for Alberta hog producers ever, when a low North American market and a lockout at Fletcher's combined to bring the lowest hog prices since 1974," reminds Gietz.

While Alberta prices improved, the situation was different in other provinces, including Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec. Slaughter hog prices there were above year-ago levels, but didn't improve to the same extent as Alberta and U.S. prices.

(Cont'd)

"As a result of the divergent price trends, it was common for Alberta plant prices to exceed Ontario prices, and, for two weeks in the first quarter, the Alberta producer payment prices also exceeded the Ontario price, a situation not seen for several years." Gietz says one possibility for this difference is that the countervailing duty on pork exports to the U.S. has reduced Eastern Canadian packer demand for slaughter hogs. "The possibility of a retroactive and higher countervail is an even bigger deterrent," he adds.

Gietz says the strength of the current price surge makes it difficult, if not impossible, to predict where the hog market will peak. "Price records are a distinct possibility this spring in the U.S. But, a combination of consumer response to higher retail pork prices, reduced exports and slight increases in kill numbers is likely to cap the current price rally sometime in June."

The Canadian dollar remains a major unknown in the Alberta hog outlook picture. In his projections, Gietz says he is assuming a gradual decline toward the 84 cent U.S. level by the close of 1990. "Alberta producer payments are expected to continue to average well above 1989 levels for the remainder of the year and to closely parallel price trends in the U.S. market," he says. This translates to a price peak of around $1.60 per kilogram in late June, but the strength of the Canadian dollar will prevent Canadian hog prices from approaching record highs of 1986, he adds.

Gietz's predictions for the remainder of 1990 are for prices between $1.45 and $1.55 per kilogram in the third quarter and between $1.35 and $1.45 per kilogram in the final quarter.

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Contact: Ron Gietz
427-5376

May 7, 1990
For immediate release

Expect fall calf prices like last year's

Similar prices to 1989's are expected for fall yearlings and calves in Alberta cattle markets says an Alberta Agriculture livestock analyst.

Likely trading ranges for September-October are between $90 and $95/cwt. for 800 to 900 lb. steers, $95 and $105 for 600 to 700 lb. steers, and $105 and $115 for 500 to 600 lb. steers, says Ron Gietz in his quarterly cattle situation and outlook. "Strength in the U.S. market should provide support to our prices and continue to draw feeders south," he says.

Slaughter cattle prices are expected to decline gradually in May and June and bottom in July around $72/cwt. for U.S. direct sale steers, he says. "Price improvement from these levels is likely to be very gradual, particularly if cattle are held back in feedlots," he says. He adds, by October U.S. fed cattle prices could return to the mid to upper $70 range.

The Alberta direct sale steer trade is predicted to average between $79 and $83/cwt. in the second and third quarters and between $82 and $86 in the final quarter of 1990. Prices forecast for the fed cattle market are based on a gradually declining Canadian dollar, reaching the 84 cent U.S. level by December, Gietz adds.

He also says breeding stock prices are expected to continue a trend of lower prices in 1990. "Expansion of the provincial beef herd appear to have moderated and the profitability of cow-calf operations has generally declined in the past two years, translating into reduced demand for replacement stock."

Gietz says the Canadian cattle industry is undergoing a period of major restructuring. "If you look at Canadian fed cattle slaughter statistics for the first three months of 1990, production looks static compared to last year. Closer inspection shows major restructuring."

(Cont'd)

Fed cattle--both steer and heifer--slaughter in Alberta was up 18 per cent over the year-ago quarter. "This is an exceptional rate of growth in the cattle feeding industry, not equalled in the province since the first quarter of 1964," he says. "The current period of growth in Alberta's feedlot sector is similar in magnitude to the initial expansion of the industry in the early 1960s."

Balancing the increase in the fed cattle slaughter and export in Western Canada, was a 19 per cent slump in fed cattle slaughter in Eastern Canada.

Gietz says North American beef markets are in the middle of a major realignment in trade flows, with steadily increasing north-south movement and reduced east-west product flows. He says a new Canadian grading system, including marbling and yield evaluations, would be a major step in allowing the Canadian industry to exploit western U.S. markets.

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Contact: Ron Gietz
427-5376

May 7, 1990
For immediate release

Alberta cattle feeders pilot new training program

Nine Alberta cattle feeders recently completed training their feedlot staff through an Alberta Agriculture Green Certificate pilot program.

While the Green Certificate program has operated for over a decade, this is its first venture into training feedlot staff says Douglas Taylor, the program's supervisor. The Green Certificate program is a province-wide, apprenticeship-style career training program operated by Alberta Agriculture.

The 11 feedlot technician trainees started their apprenticeship at a group induction session in April, 1989. As well as their on-the-job learning, they also attended a series of three day skills courses over the year. All have now been certified as feedlot technicians by a Green Certificate test board. Final tests were conducted in late March at Lethbridge Community College's animal husbandry facility.

"As with all Green Certificate specializations, this curriculum was developed by members of industry, in this case the cattle feeding sector. The training system uses the industry itself to deliver the instruction in a practical environment, so feedlot operator co-operation was an important part of the success of the program," says Taylor. All of the trainees were regular employees of the approved training sites, he adds.

Feedlot operators who participated in the project were mostly from southern Alberta. They included: Jack DeBoer, Monarch Feeders, Monarch; Dirk Van As, D&M Feeders, Fort Macleod; Herman Stroeve, H. Stroeve Feeders, Picture Butte; Larry Nolan, Nolan Cattle Co., Iron Springs; Ken Karsten, Claresholm Beef Producers, Claresholm; Bruce Vadnais, Kimball Feedlot, Cardston; Adrian DeWilde, Monarch; John Ketel, Anchor M. Feeders, Lethbridge; and, Ian Stewart, Alta. Soy Industries, Camrose.

(Cont'd)

Taylor says the pilot project has been evaluated and judged successful enough to expand to other areas of the province. "First, we plan a public awareness campaign to let both feedlot operators and potential trainees know about the program.

"We're also planning to develop a second level of the program aimed at developing skills of a feedlot foreman or supervisor."

For more information about the feedlot technician Green Certificate program, contact Taylor in Edmonton at 427-2173.

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Contact: Douglas Taylor
427-2173

May 7, 1990
For immediate release

Brosseau 4-H member wins Premier's Award

A 17-year old high school student from Brosseau is the 1990 winner of the Premier's Award, the Alberta 4-H program's highest honor.

Jennifer Babiuk was chosen for the honor at a weekend of personal development and group interaction from among 139 of Alberta's top 4-H members. During the three day annual provincial 4-H selections program in Olds, the delegates participate in activities designed to improve their life and leadership skills.

Babiuk was selected from seven finalists known as the Ambassador Group. Other members of the 1990 Ambassador group are: David Jans, Medicine Hat; Karmen Hodgson, Bowden; Lorna Armitage, Red Deer; Christine Erichsen, Botha; Kirk Wildman, Sangudo; and, Gail Roessler, Sexsmith.

Babiuk says she is excited to be the recipient of the 27th annual award. "I'm looking forward to the opportunity of representing Alberta 4-H members in the coming year." Among her responsibilities will be representing Alberta next April at the Washington, D.C. National 4-H Conference.

For the last eight years, Babiuk has been an active member of both the Brosseau 4-H Beef Club and the Lakeland Riders 4-H Light Horse Club. As well as holding executive positions in her clubs and on the district council, she has been active in Northeast 4-H regional activities. An excellent public speaker, Babiuk also enjoys Ukrainian dancing and curling.

Babiuk succeeds Claudelle Seguin, of Westlock, who received the honor in 1989. Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan presented the award to Babiuk at the awards breakfast. The official award presentation by Premier Don Getty will be at a later date.

Trip awards to 71 Selections delegates were also announced at a concluding awards breakfast. The chosen 4-H members will represent Alberta at major educational programs and tours throughout Canada and the United States over the next 12 months.

(Cont'd)

Alberta 4-H members 16 years of age and older (as of January 1) can participate at Selections. Throughout the weekend, members are evaluated to determine their eligibility for trip awards. This includes points from their yearly 4-H diary, a current events and 4-H exam, peer evaluation and assessment by leaders of group interaction. This year Selections delegates participated in group activities centered around the theme of "challenging the '90s".

Organized by Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch, Selections is sponsored by Agriculture Canada, Alberta Agriculture, the Alberta Wheat Pool and United Grain Growers.

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Contact: Jennifer Babiuk
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Marguerite Stark
948-8510

May 7, 1990
For immediate release

Reduce crop damage when spraying

Reducing crop damage when spraying is a simple process, sometimes overlooked, and more often completely neglected by farmers, says an Alberta Agriculture engineer.

"Wheel traffic from spraying typically accounts for only one or two per cent of total yield reduction, but those losses can be minimized," says Robert Maze, a project engineer at the Alberta Farm Machinery Research Centre in Lethbridge.

Tests done at the centre indicate the greatest amount of damage done to emerging seedlings is by the first wheel contacting the plant, he says. "So, the key to minimizing crop damage during spraying is to reduce the amount of crop in contact with tractor or sprayer tank wheels."

Maze advises farmers the simplest method to reduce damage is to adjust sprayer wheels so they run in the tractor tracks. "When you run sprayer wheels outside the tractor wheels, overall soil compaction is reduced, but crop damage is not. This is contrary to what some farmers may have practiced in the past," he says. Maze adds, dual wheels on tractors used for spraying may not provide any cropping benefits and may actually reduce overall yield.

Stage of growth and crop vigor also determine the affect of mechanical damage by wheel traffic. Spraying earlier reduces wheel traffic effects on crops, says Maze. "And, a crop under stress is less likely to recover from mechanical damage," he adds.

Research by centre staff into wheel traffic effects on crop yield will continue this spring. For more information, contact the Alberta Farm Machinery Research Centre in Lethbridge at 3000 College Drive South, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1K 1L6 or call 329-1212.

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Contact: Robert Maze
329-1212

May 7, 1990
For immediate release

"Conservation Matters" soon in farmers' mail

Alberta farmers should look for something new in their mail within the next week.

The something new is "Conservation Matters", a bi-monthly newsletter, compiled by Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch and Agriculture Canada's Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA).

"It's producer oriented and gives them the opportunity to tell their own stories about the conservation practices they have implemented on their farms," says Barb Shackel, Alberta Agriculture conservation awareness specialist. Producer organizations and agricultural service boards (ASBs) will also contribute reports about their activities and conservation programs.

"One goal of the newsletter is to give farmers from every region of the province a chance to tell their story. There are a lot of people out there who think that soil degradation is only a problem in the south. The stories in this newsletter are from every region of the province.

"Soil degradation is a province wide issue. The number one problem may differ from region to region, but soil degradation is occurring everywhere," she says.

Through the newsletter, producers and their organizations have the opportunity to let other producers know about their successes and problems implementing conservation practices on their farm, find out what works in their area, what is happening in other areas of the province and what they can do to keep their fields from washing or blowing away.

As well as these reports, the newsletter features a "coming events" section listing all of the activities scheduled for the following two months.

(Cont'd)

"Conservation Matters" soon in farmers' mail (cont'd)

Seasonal conservation tips in the newsletter will remind farmers about the little things they can do to reduce soil degradation on their farm.

Farmers, ASBs and producer organizations are encouraged to submit articles or stories about what is happening in their region. Articles can be mailed to Barb Shackel, Alberta Agriculture, Conservation and Development Branch, 206, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6. For more information, call Shackel at 422-4385.

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Contact: Barb Shackel
422-4385

Alan Stewart, PFRA
495-3307

May 7, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

MUNICIPAL STATUTES REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF) has set up a municipal statutes review committee to spearhead a review of provincial laws affecting Alberta's agricultural service boards (ASBs). The review committee will examine the Agricultural Service Board Act in 1990-91 and has scheduled reviews of four other related Acts. They are: Agricultural Pests Act, 1992; Agricultural Chemicals Act, 1993; Weed Control Act, 1994; and Soil Conservation Act, 1995. The committee's objective is to gather the thoughts and concerns of ASBs related to the provincial legislation that affects them. Committee members are agricultural fieldmen Don Clopton, of the County of Vulcan, Allan Deutsch, of the County of Lac Ste. Anne, and Normand Boulet, of Improvement District 16. They will be contacting each ASB in the near future to request written submissions. Please contact a committee member for more information: Don Clopton at 485-2241 in Vulcan; Allan Deutsch at 785-3411 in Sangudo; or, Normand Boulet at 524-4445 in Valleyview.

ANHYRDOUS AMMONIA SAFE HANDLING VIDEO

Farmers who use or plan to use anhydrous ammonia fertilizer should view an Esso Canada produced video says Alberta Agriculture's farm safety manager. "The video discusses all the safety angles from how to choose a good supplier to actual application," says Solomon Kyeremanteng. The video, "Making the Difference: Safe Handling of Anhydrous Ammonia", is broken down into segments, he notes. The first segment tells how a healthy respect for the product is important when using it and outlines basic safety equipment. Rubber gloves, safety goggles, a protective suit and water supplies are all critical safety precautions. Water is particularly important, reminds Kyeremanteng, as it is the first and best first aid. As well as a good supply for flushing, farmers should also carry a squeeze bottle in their shirt

(Cont'd)

ANHYDROUS AMMONIA SAFE HANDLING VIDEO (cont'd)

pocket. The second segment of the video outlines how to use equipment properly including connection and disconnection procedures. Another segment deals with potential problems when applying the fertilizer such as plugged shanks. A final section deals with self-certification. A companion booklet is also available. "This video is a very good safety review and an excellent source of safety information," he says. The video will soon be available for lending from Alberta Agriculture's Film Library. For more information, call Kyeremanteng at 427-2186 or Jim Hladky, of Esso, in Edmonton at 449-8642.

AIA 44TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN LETHBRIDGE

Lethbridge will host the 44th annual Alberta Institute of Agrologist's conference June 6 through 8. The conference theme is "there is more to irrigation than agriculture" and conference sessions will include discussions of: irrigation in the past, present and future in Alberta; Alberta's water capital projects today and tomorrow; irrigation's role in the Alberta economy; fish and wildlife interaction with irrigation; and, industrial development as influenced by irrigation. There will also be a bus tour to the Old Man Dam site and Head Smashed in Buffalo Jump. Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan is the banquet guest speaker. The AIA will also salute the University of Alberta's faculty of agriculture and forestry on its 75th anniversary. For more information, contact Pano Karkanis, the conference committee chairman, at 381-5822.

NATIONAL HOME ECONOMIST CONVENTION COMES TO CALGARY IN JULY

The registration deadline for the Canadian Home Economics Association 1990 national conference is June 1. The national conference with the theme of "ethics and environments for the 1990s" will be in Calgary July 1 through 4. Among topics on the conference agenda are: the global debt crisis; the impact of poverty on the family environment; environmental choice programs; home economics in the global community;

(Cont'd)

NATIONAL HOME ECONOMIST CONVENTION COMES TO CALGARY IN JULY (cont'd)

dealing with environmental issues in the classroom; recycling household waste, advances in food technology; fashion obsolescence; environmentally friendly housing; food supply safety; regreening the earth; Canada as a multicultural environment; and, responsible consumerism. The conference keynote address will be by scientist, broadcaster and environmentalist David Suzuki. Information about the conference is available by writing CHEA Conference 90, P.O. Box 7146, Station E, Calgary, Alberta, T3C 3L8 or by calling 259-2624.

ACC LOOKING FOR NEW GM

The Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC) is looking for a new general manager. On June 18, current general manager Dennis Laycraft will begin duties as general manager of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association. "We look forward to continuing to work with Dennis in realizing our many national objectives," says George Schoepp, ACC chairman. The ACC is advertising the position and the application deadline is May 31, 1990. For more information, contact Schoepp in Stony Plain at 963-3376 or Joanne Lemke at the ACC office in Calgary at 275-4400.

CORRECTION

The final paragraph of a story in last week's Agri-News (Seed testing still key to fighting blackleg of canola, April 30, 1990) inadvertently gave the impression Alberta Agriculture refunds growers costs of blackleg tests. The department does pay $20 towards testing a canola sample for virulent blackleg at any of six approved private seed testing laboratories. Canola growers submitting the sample pay the rest of the test cost. We regret any inconvenience this error might have caused. Questions about the seed testing program can be directed to Alberta Agriculture's crop protection branch at 427-7098.

AGRI-NEWS

May 14, 1990

For immediate release

CANADIANA

MAY 22 1990

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

May 14, 1990
For immediate release

Record wheat crop expected

Expectations of a record 1990 world wheat crop and the continued American and European Community (EC) subsidy war pushed down international wheat prices during the first quarter of this year says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"International prices will likely bottom out this quarter. But with the extremely tight supply demand balance, any weather problem would send wheat prices much higher," says Charlie Pearson, in a quarterly wheat situation and outlook report.

The Alberta based Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) initial payment is currently about $147 per tonne for 1 CWRS for the 1989-90 crop year. International wheat prices offered to countries identified by U.S. or EC subsidy programs are currently about $155 (Canadian dollars) per tonne, down $25 per tonne from 1989 levels. With a $25 per tonne decline in international wheat prices, final payments should put total Alberta based payments at about $160 per tonne for 1 CWRS and $140 per tonne for 3 CWRS, he says.

Pearson says the Canadian wheat export pace is expected to increase during the last four months of this crop year with improved sales to both China and the Soviet Union. Total 1989-90 wheat exports will be about 16.9 million tonnes, 36 per cent higher than the drought reduced 1988-89 export level.

"Prairie farmers will still have full opportunity to empty their bins in the next four months, as I would expect virtually open wheat quota by the end of the crop year," he says. Pearson says prospects also look good for the next crop year and expects full delivery opportunities for the entire 1990 Prairie wheat crop.

On the feed wheat front, October contract Winnipeg feed wheat futures prices have ranged from $133 to $141 per tonne over the past quarter.

(Cont'd)

"Assuming a $23 per tonne elevator basis, producers have had the opportunity to lock in $110 to $118 per tonne for fall delivery feed wheat," he says. He adds, "Given the likely feed wheat acreage and the potential for a large volume of hard red spring wheat grading Canada Feed if the Prairie have a weather wreck this fall, producers growing higher yielding feed wheats are encouraged to lock in a portion of their production at these levels."

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Contact: Charlie Pearson
427-5386

Editor's note: Please be advised as market changes can be rapid at this time of year, check with the market analyst for an update before publishing or broadcast.

May 14, 1990
For immediate release

Barley, oat prices steady at winter levels

With a forecast large 1990 world coarse grain crop, local barley and oat prices are expected to be similar to those during the past winter says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

"Local barley prices for 1990-91 are expected in the $90 to $100 per tonne range in northern Alberta and $20 higher in southern regions," says Charlie Pearson, and he adds, "Local barley markets will receive mixed signals over the next few months. Potential positives are tight supplies and effects of the weather on prices. Negative factors are the decline in 1990-91 Canadian Wheat Board initial payments and panic selling by farmers who held back barley for a spring rally that might not happen."

Oat prices are likely in the $85 to $100 per tonne range, he says. "Prairie oat prices will be under pressure during the spring and summer. Poor quality of remaining farm stored oats and potential summer dumping of supplies as farmer free up bin space will make price improvements in the next quarter unlikely.

"As always, weather problems in the U.S. or the Canadian Prairies will drive up oat prices," says Charlie Pearson in his quarterly situation and outlook report.

Pearson says the world coarse grain situation is the tightest it's been in ten years. "A world stock use ratio of 14 per cent at the end of 1990-91 is even tighter than in 1983-84 after the 1983 U.S. drought."

Canadian farmers have delivered 3.6 million tonnes of barley during the first eight months of the crop year compared to 2.9 million tonnes in the previous year. Farmer deliveries to the off-board market were about one million tonnes, close to double the previous year's pace. Barley exports in those eight months were 3.1 million tonnes, almost double the 1988-89 pace.

(Cont'd)

"Exports in the final months of the crop year will be limited more by farmer deliveries than sales opportunities, so forecasting total exports becomes very difficult," he says.

"If the Canadian Wheat Board can maintain an export pace of 40,000 tonnes per week to the end of the crop year, total barley exports would be 3.9 million tonnes, 30 per cent more than in 1988-89."

Pearson says 1990 rye production could reach 800,000 tones. "A crop this size will be more than enough to meet expected 1990-91 disappearance. It should also mean rye will continue to trade at 80 per cent of local barley prices," he says. With an off-board 1990-91 barley price in the $90 to $100 per tonne range, local rye prices should hold in the $70 to $80 range in the coming crop year, he adds.

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Contact: Charlie Pearson
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Editor's Note: Please be advised as market changes can be rapid at this time of year, check with the market analyst for an update before publishing or broadcast.

May 14, 1990
For immediate release

Canola prices under pressure this summer

Increased selling pressure from South America and prospects for a large 1990 U.S. soybean crop will keep canola prices under pressure during the summer says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

Alberta elevator/crusher bids are expected to hold in the $275 to $295 per tonne range during the summer with opportunity for a $10 per tonne improvement in the range during the fall, he says.

Rather than holding cash canola for a spring price, farmers should consider delivering and selling on rallies combined with prudent use of the futures market says Charlie Pearson. "This strategy aids both the producer and the canola marketing system. The producer has the money from his 1989 crop to pay for 1990 inputs and the canola market benefits from satisfied customer needs."

For the new crop year, Pearson says he encourages producers to begin pre-pricing their 1990 canola crop at the top end of an expected local cash price of between $275 and $305 per tonne.

Pearson says canola crusher margins improved in the first quarter of the year, reflecting the fact canola price increases haven't kept pace with Chicago soybean oil and meal prices. "Generally steady farmer deliveries and concerns about further shutdowns in the domestic crushing industry haven't allowed canola prices to improve as much as might have been expected."

Canola growers delivered 70 per cent of their crop between August, 1989 and March, 1990. In the same period the previous year, they delivered less than 55 per cent of their crop.

Canola exports are expected to slow during the last part of the crop year as high prices relative to other oilseeds force both Mexico and the United States out of the market, he says. Canadian canola exports for the 1989-90 crop year are forecast at 1.95 million tonnes, equal to 1988-89 levels.

(Cont'd)

World flax supplies are tight and have held May contract futures prices in the $389 to $426 range per tonne range. Cash prices in Vancouver have maintained a $20 premium to futures prices.

"Reduced deliveries during the next three months as farmers empty bins and the fact remaining farm stored flaxseed is in tight farmer hands, should hold local elevator bids in the $350 to $380 per tonne range," he says. He adds he expects prices to weaken in midsummer as buyers wait for increased supplies this fall.

Looking ahead to the new crop, Pearson says December contract flaxseed futures are expected to remain in a $310 to $330 per tonne range during the coming summer unless weather threatens Prairie production.

"Given the potential size of the 1990 Canadian flax crop, growers are encouraged to price a major portion of the 1990 production on rallies. Weather, as with all the grains and oilseeds, is the major wild card in price forecasts," he says.

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Contact: Charlie Pearson
427-5386

Editor's Note: Please be advised as market changes can be rapid at this time of year, check with the market analyst for an update before publishing or broadcast.

May 14, 1990
For immediate release

Lamb prices pushed lower

A number of negative factors are keeping lamb prices low says an Alberta Agriculture market analyst.

Weak U.S. slaughter lamb prices because of a large wholesale lamb stock overhang, a supply of overweight lambs from packer-owned feedlots in the western United States, a strengthening of the Canadian dollar and a push by Australia to develop a quality lamb market in Canada and the United States are combining to keep lamb prices down, says Jo Ann Cmoluch in a quarterly situation and outlook report.

"Lambco's bid range is expected to remain steady to lower throughout the next two quarters with improvements only with a weaker Canadian dollar and or significant declines in slaughter or stock levels in the United States," she says. Cmoluch projects bid ranges of between $67 and $73/cwt. for the second quarter and between $63 and $68/cwt. for the third quarter of this year.

Alberta's slaughter lamb market didn't start the year off on a positive note as prices ranged lower than the previous year. The Lambco January bid range was between $66.25 and $69.25 and the average February range was between $60 and $63/cwt. By the end of March prices peaked between $69 and $72/cwt. Prices were similar at sheep and lamb sales in Edmonton. These prices followed a trend south of the border. Slaughter lamb prices in the United States were about $10 Canadian lower than for the same period in 1989.

Slaughter at federally and provincial inspected plants in Alberta remained about the same in the first quarter of 1990--at 19,700 head--as for the same time period in 1989. Slaughter volumes declined sharply in eastern Canada and have continued to increase in the United States.

During the first quarter, Canadian imports of mutton doubled 1989 first quarter levels. Imports of lamb, however, declined by six per cent.

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Contact: Jo Ann Cmoluch
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May 14, 1990
For immediate release

Consumer attitudes influence agri-food sector

Nutrition is an increasingly powerful influence on food purchase decisions in today's rapidly changing marketplace says Alberta Agriculture's provincial food and nutrition specialist.

"More concern about nutrition should make our population healthier, but we do have to beware of the old cliche of a little knowledge being a dangerous thing holding true when it comes to the decisions consumers make," says Aileen Whitmore.

A recent survey of Canadian consumers confirmed many correctly believe animal products are the major source of fat in their diet, she says. "So,it's not surprising for the past decade apparent consumption of certain animal products such as red meats, whole milk and animal fats has been declining, while consumption of chicken, cheeses, partly skimmed milk, yogurt and vegetable fats has been increasing."

But red meats aren't the only source of fat. "We do need to work at removing some of the negative information about red meat by pointing out the other primary sources of fat in the diet. Some good examples are: salad dressings, sauces, gravy, deep fat fried fast foods, muffins, croissants, granola bars, cookies and pastries," she says.

Generally decreasing consumption of animal products seen over the last decade is levelling off. Most people aren't reducing their animal product consumption any further, nor eliminating foods from their diets. Instead, says Whitmore, consumers are demanding animal products lower in fat, such as lean, well-trimmed meats.

"Canadian retailers report a growing demand for lean meats and say it's the most important trend in meats. They predict a 13 per cent increase in sales of ultra-trim cuts between 1987 and 1992.

"The challenge for the meat sector is to develop and market more low fat products that also meet consumer demands for variety and quality. Beef and pork producers have been rising to that challenge," she says.

(Cont'd)

Consumer attitudes influence the agri-food sector (cont'd)

According to the survey, consumers still have some misconceptions about the sources of fat. Approximately 20 per cent mistakenly believe margarine has less fat than butter. "You can't eat one instead of the other if your objective is to cut down on fat," says Whitmore.

Only one-third knew nuts are high in fat, she adds. For example, a generous handful of dry roasted mixed nuts (about 125 g) has the same amount of fat as nine pats of butter or margarine.

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Contact: Aileen Whitmore
427-2412

May 14, 1990
For immediate release

Lending assistance announced for Centennial Foods

Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley has announced conditional approval for $2 million in lending assistance through the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) to Centennial Foods, Inc of Bozeman, Montana, for construction of $4.5 million barley processing plant in southern Alberta.

The plant, expected to employ 18 people, will process waxy barley into starch and animal feed. The company also says it expects to introduce a number of new barley-related products and markets, including fibre supplements, sweetened bran and other additives for food and manufacturing purposes.

Construction is expected to begin in 1990, pending Centennial's choice of plant location. ADC funding is conditional on marketing and production projections being realized and confirmation of other funding sources, including private shareholders and the federal Western Economic Diversification program.

"The value-added sector of our agriculture economy is growing quickly," says Isley. "Taking a raw product, like barley, and adding value to it through food processing makes agriculture stronger and more diversified. Through projects like this we are shaping our own economic destiny.

"This new plant will stimulate production of barley in Alberta, especially because farmers can expect prices that are more attractive than feed barley prices."

Isley says ADC and Agriculture officials have worked hard on the proposal to bring new economic diversification to the region. "We have helped with the engineering studies and market analysis as well as the financing. And of course, we are making the resources at the Food Processing Development Centre in Leduc available for research and development of the new product that Centennial will produce."

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Contact: Bob Splane
679-1311

Brad Klak
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May 14, 1990
For immediate release

Selecting, planting bedding plants

The approach of May's long weekend is often a signal for gardeners to buy their bedding plants says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"The rush is on at garden centers, greenhouses and farmers' markets to buy annual flowers," says Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre in Edmonton.

North says before buying bedding plants, gardeners should prepare the soil where the plants will be transplanted and also consider what type of annuals are best suited to the location.

Organic matter should be added to the soil, she says. Add at least a half inch of peat moss, compost or well rotted manure every second year. Also apply an all purpose garden fertilizer such as 16-20-0. Ideally, a soil test should also be done.

Location is an important part of choosing annuals, she says. "Different flowers do well in shady versus sunny areas. Pick the annual that suits your particular garden location." For example, geraniums, marigolds, petunias, zinnias, snapdragons and portulaca thrive in bright sunny spots. More suited to the shade are begonias, impatiens, bowallias and violas. "Ask about any new or interesting plants when you're making your purchase. The great thing about annuals is that you can try something new every year."

When buying plants, choose dark green vigorous plants with no yellow leaves. Chose compact plants, rather than spindly ones, she advises.

Evenings or a cool day are the best times to transplant bedding plants to avoid transplant shock, she says. The plants can be fertilized when they are transplanted. She suggests watering them with a high phosphorous solution such as 10-52-10.

"Because bedding plants are relatively delicate, be prepared to cover them if there is a risk of frost. Tarps, burlap or old sheets suspended over sticks can shield the plants," North says.

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Contact: Pam North
472-6043

May 14, 1990
For immediate release

New CARA project funded, two others continued

The Chinook Applied Research Association (CARA) has received funding approval from the Canada/Alberta Agreement on Soil, Water and Cropping Research and Technology Transfer (CARTT) to continue two projects and begin a third .

Alternatives to conventional summerfallow are examined in all three projects, says Vasile Klaassen, south central regional soil conservation co-ordinator. "Summerfallow is a fact of life in many parts of southern Alberta, so CARA is examining methods that maintain crop residue, help prevent soil erosion and increase soil moisture. These measures may have a positive effect on soil fertility, crop yield and economic return."

One on-going project demonstrated the effects of different fallow methods on crop residue, soil moisture reserves, soil fertility, crop yield and economic return. In 1989, conventional wideblade tillage, minimum tillage (herbicide followed by wide blade tillage) and chemfallow were used.

The new project continues this applied research in a new location. "Testing the effects of fallow management techniques needs to be done over a number of years and at various locations to cover the wide variety of soil and climatic conditions that exist," Klaassen says.

Using legumes as an alternative to fallow was started last April. This year, wheat yields will be monitored on a field where strips of Indianhead lentils, sweet clover, maple pea and wheat were grown and disced in. Green manuring with nitrogen-fixing annual legumes, in combination with snowtrapping measures, have proven an effective way to enhance soil quality and reduce erosion potential.

CARTT's objective is to develop and transfer appropriate conservation tillage and cropping technology which will minimize soil degradation and sustain economic crop production. Projects must meet this criteria to be given funding approval.

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Contact: Vasile Klaassen
948-8543

May 14, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

ACTING ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER APPOINTED

Irene Leavitt became Alberta Agriculture's acting assistant deputy minister for the field services sector on May 7. Leavitt takes over acting duties from Bill Dent, the former assistant deputy minister, who is the new president of the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation. Dent spent 32 years with Alberta Agriculture starting as a district agriculturist in 1958. His appointments included north west regional director and director of the plant industry division before becoming assistant deputy minister in 1983. Leavitt, currently director of the rural services division, joined Alberta Agriculture as a district home economist in 1958. She is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan. The field services sector includes the rural services division (agricultural education, agricultural engineering, home economics, agricultural and community services and 4-H branches), the information services division and the six Alberta regions. "I'm looking forward to new challenges and opportunities as acting assistant deputy minister," says Leavitt. Carrying out the duties as acting rural services director will be Robert Forrest, who will also continue duties as agricultural engineering branch head. Leavitt can be contacted at 427-2440.

SUMMER FARM EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM DEADLINE MAY 31

Farmers and students interested in the Summer Farm Employment Program have a May 31 application deadline. Application forms are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices and Agriculture Employment Service offices. The program limit is 800 students and is expected to be reached before the final application date. Applications are treated on a first-come, first-served basis, so getting applications in early is important. Through the program, the Alberta government will

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

SUMMER FARM EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM DEADLINE MAY 31 (cont'd)
pay half the employee's monthly wage to a maximum of $330 for each month of the program (Note: $330, not $300 per month as previously reported) for jobs running between July 3 and August 31, 1990. For more information contact Bernie Yakimyshyn at 427-2405.

PETRO-CANADA 4-H YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD APPLICATION DEADLINE JUNE 1

4-H club members applying for the Petro-Canada 4-H Youth Leadership Awards are reminded they must have their essays and 4-H scholarship applications into the 4-H branch in Edmonton by June 1. Four young Albertans currently 4-H members, will each receive $1,000 toward furthering their education if chosen as a scholarship recipient. For more information, contact the 4-H branch in Edmonton at 427-2541.

ALBERTA COWBOY POETRY ASSOCIATION GATHERING

The third annual Alberta Cowboy Poetry Association gathering will be held June 15 through 17 in Pincher Creek. The meeting is held in conjunction with the Pincher Creek Agricultural Society Rancher's Rodeo. For more information, contact Blaine Pickard at 627-4766 or Arlene Boisjoli at 628-2405.

FARM ESTATE PLANNING VIDEO SERIES

Alberta Agriculture has a new two-part video series about farm estate planning available for lending. The first installment, "The Farm Family and Land Law" (VT 819-3-1), is a 20 minute look at transferring property from one generation to the next. The video uses both dramatic and interview segments to examine estate planning and the options for owning land. The second video is "Tax Planning and Wills" (VT 819-3-2). The importance of wills, as well as their role in farm transfers, are discussed. Alberta Agriculture tax specialist Cal Brandly is featured in both presentations hosted by Noel McNaughton. Copies of these two videos are available for lending from all Alberta Agriculture district offices.

AGRI-NEWS

May 21, 1990

For immediate release

JUN - 7 1990

This Week

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

May 21, 1990
For immediate release

Southern Alberta spring soil moisture conditions

Soil moisture conditions in southern Alberta are slightly better than they were last year says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Conditions indicate the dry areas occupy about three percent less of the total area than they did last spring," says Al Howard, soil moisture specialist in Lethbridge.

Howard says south of Lethbridge and west of Foremost, soil moisture levels are moderate to high. Moisture conditions are also high through the foothills, west-central Alberta and an area from Sherwood Park east to Vegreville.

North of Lethbridge, conditions are considerably drier. The driest areas are around Vulcan and a belt along the Saskatchewan border from Consort south to the South Saskatchewan River.

"Stubble soil moisture levels are generally too low to recommend recropping in an area south of Wainwright, east of Calgary and north of Medicine Hat. Dry soil moisture conditions have also been found in an area from Wetaskiwin to Sedgewick and extending south to Stettler," says Howard. (**Note: A map of spring soil moisture conditions is attached.**)

"The amount and timeliness of precipitation during the growing season will be the major factor in determining the success of crops this year," he adds. "Where soil moisture levels are moderate or high, recropping will be successful most years."

Provincial soil moisture maps are produced every spring and fall. The map is based on conditions in medium textured stubble fields. Summerfallow fields are expected to contain more moisture.

"Scattered showers near the end of April may have changed moisture conditions in local areas. Farmers are encouraged to sample their own fields when determining their cropping plans," says Howard.

(Cont'd)

Southern Alberta spring soil moisture conditions (cont'd)

Soil moisture sampling was delayed in the northern half of the province because of persistent frost. A map of overall provincial conditions should be available later this month.

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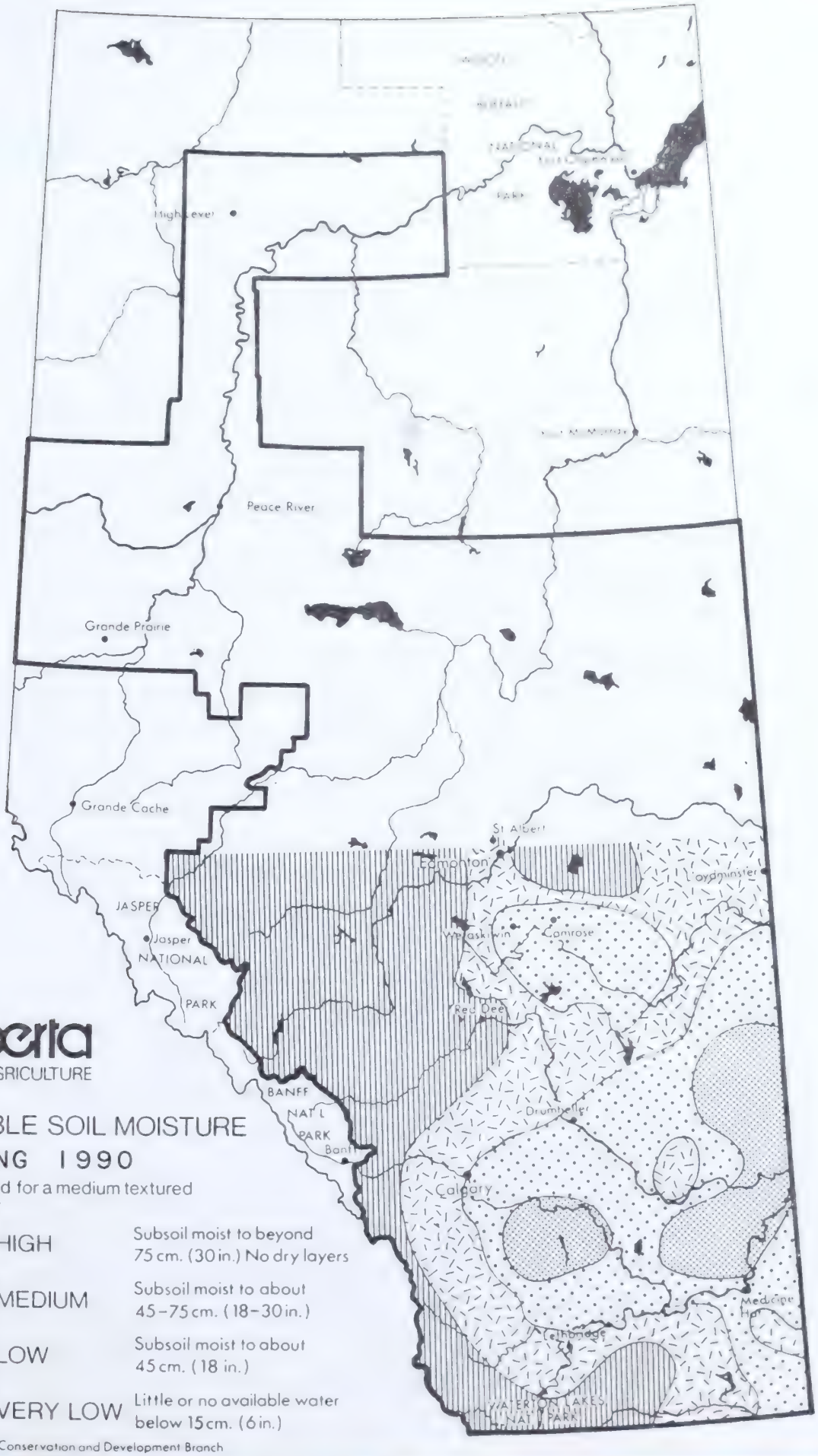
Contact: Al Howard
381-5861



Alberta
AGRICULTURE

STUBBLE SOIL MOISTURE

SPRING 1990

Estimated for a medium textured soil as of

HIGH	Subsoil moist to beyond 75 cm. (30 in.) No dry layers
MEDIUM	Subsoil moist to about 45–75 cm. (18–30 in.)
LOW	Subsoil moist to about 45 cm. (18 in.)
VERY LOW	Little or no available water below 15 cm. (6 in.)

Compiled by Conservation and Development Branch

May 21, 1990
For immediate release

Soil conservation awareness spreads in the northeast

The Canada/Alberta Agreement on Soil, Water and Cropping Research and Technology Transfer (CARTT) program is funding a number of awareness projects in northeastern Alberta.

"There are a wide variety of projects including municipality-wide conservation plans, a specific media campaign and distributing soil conservation awareness placemats to restaurants," says Carol Bettac, northeast regional soil conservation co-ordinator.

The County of St. Paul is undertaking a project to increase general public awareness and interest in soil conservation. Among their plans is a soil conservation calendar with local photographs from a contest. The county's agricultural service board is developing a tabletop conservation display for use at meetings, conferences, fairs, field days, offices and other special events.

Conservation awareness radio announcements to create a positive attitude about soil conservation are the focus of a media campaign in the County of Vermilion River. The radio spots will make farmers aware soil conservation has an impact on their incomes and will advise farmers about new ideas, equipment and management practices.

"The county felt radio advertising would reach the largest number of farmers. The media program encompasses the whole region and all agricultural service boards will be involved and will benefit from the advertising," says Bettac.

Mailouts, school conservation activities, meetings and tours are all part of a general awareness program in the County of Minburn. A short, practical and timely newsletter will be mailed to county rate payers. Activities in schools will be geared to make youngsters, and their parents, aware of soil conservation issues. Local soil conservation issues will be highlighted at meetings, tours and presentations. The county is also participating in the radio advertising program.

(Cont'd)

The Stanislaw Sandblasters will be involved in two CARTT funded projects. The conservation awareness group will distribute 40,000 placemats to restaurants, social centers and coffee shops in Mundare, Vegreville, Andrew, Chipman, Lamont, Two Hills, Innisfree and Willingdon. By using the placemats, they hope to increase general public awareness, says Bettac.

As well, the Sandblasters are planning a conservation tillage field day in the fall. A number of demonstrations such as bale shredding, land stabilization, fall applied herbicide and barrier strips will be included. "These activities are to encourage conservation tillage practices and make producers aware of the long term effects of their tillage programs," she says.

A number of locations in the northeast also hosted performances of a one act play, "Planting in the Dust". The play chronicles a number of soil conservation issues through the eyes of a young woman who returns to farm the land homesteaded by her great-grandparents.

CARTT's objective is to develop and transfer appropriate conservation tillage and cropping technology which will minimize soil degradation and sustain economic crop production. Projects must meet this criteria to be given funding approval.

Contact: Carol Bettac
853-8109

May 21, 1990
For immediate release

Tips on sprayer nozzle tips

The final link in whether pesticides do their job is a sprayer's nozzle tips, so those tips have to be in top working condition says an Alberta Agriculture equipment specialist.

"Nozzle tips are the final point of the sprayer where the operator has control of how precisely pesticides are applied," says Terry Footz. "If the tips are worn, the spray patterns narrow or produce skewed patterns. Pesticides are too expensive to be wasted by inefficient application."

Footz says tips should be checked every spring before spraying. "Checking nozzle flow before the spraying season and replacing nozzles when necessary costs only a fraction of the pesticides you use annually and can be the difference between effective and marginal weed control."

All tips erode, he says, and how much they wear depends on the material they are made from, the quality of water used and the number of acres sprayed. As part of the sprayer calibration procedure, the tips must be checked for volume output per minute and the quality of the spray pattern. "If there are streaky or off-balanced patterns in your test, clean or replace tips. All nozzles worn by more than 10 per cent from new values should be replaced."

Compressed air is the best method of cleaning nozzle tips. Tips shouldn't be cleaned with metal objects. Footz says even a wooden toothpick can damage brass or plastic nozzles. He recommends carrying extra tips when spraying and replacing them in the field if necessary.

"Nozzle pressure and nozzle height above the target must be correct to produce a uniform spray pattern. If the nozzle tips aren't operating correctly, then your sprayer calibration won't produce the desired results, so pressure, volume and height also need to be checked," he says.

(Cont'd)

When checking flow rate from nozzle tips, an accurate pressure reading is important. Footz says temporarily installing a good quality pressure gauge at the boom end will ensure the pressure reading is the actual nozzle pressure. The recommended spraying pressure for standard flat fan nozzles ranges between 30 and 45 pounds per square inch (200-300 kPa). Pressures lower than 30 pounds per square inch cause the spray pattern to narrow excessively. Pressures above 45 pounds per square inch create more potential drift.

Correct nozzle height above the spray target provides uniform coverage. With nozzle spacing at the standard 0.5 metres and an 80 degree spray angle, the distance the spray travels to reach the target is 46 centimetres (18 inches). With 110 degree spray nozzles, the distance between tip and target can be as little as 35 centimetres (14 inches) or as much as 46 centimetres to provide more overlap without seriously affecting the spray pattern.

Determining nozzle tip output so the correct spray volume is used is also important, he says. This is calculated by multiplying forward speed of travel, nozzle spacing and desired spray volume and dividing by 240. For example if the desired spray volume is 40 litres per acre, the forward speed nine kilometres per hour and nozzles are spaced at 0.5 metres (this is standardized on field sprayers), then the required tip output would be 0.75 litres per minute.

Footz notes to determine accurate forward speed, divide 360 by the number of seconds it takes to travel 100 metres in field conditions with the sprayer tank half full.

For more information, contact Footz in Edmonton at 472-6043.

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Contact: Terry Footz
472-6043

Formula: $$\frac{\text{desired spray volume (L/ac)} \times \text{speed (km/h)} \times \text{nozzle spacing (0.5 m)}}{240} = \text{tip output (L/min)}$$

Editor's note

The following series of articles about protective clothing offers information about safer handling and less exposure for the farmer when using pesticides. It's hoped you will be able to use all or part of this series over the next weeks to remind farmers protective gear is an important part of their work routine.

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May 21, 1990
For immediate release

Make the best dressed list

Protecting yourself when handling farm chemicals is just good common sense says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Farming is an occupation that has a number of hazards, but there are a lot of ways to reduce risks, and wearing protective clothing when handling pesticides is part of good safety practices," says Bertha Eggertson, provincial clothing and textiles specialist.

Clothing acts as a barrier to skin absorption of pesticides. Basic protective clothing includes a long sleeved shirt, full-length trousers, coveralls, neoprene or unlined nitrile gloves, neoprene overboots or long rubber boots and a wide brimmed hard hat. Layers provide better protection and those extra layers could include an apron and disposal coveralls.

The toxicity of a particular agricultural chemical and how the chemical is being used both play a role in how farmers should protect themselves, she says. "There are three levels of toxicity and protection should increase with the toxicity level," she advises. A caution label indicates slightly toxic, a warning label means moderately toxic and a danger label indicates highly toxic chemicals.

If the farmer is mixing or handling concentrated chemicals then wearing a waterproof or neoprene bib apron is recommended. Aprons provide extra protection for the groin area. The scrotal area is vulnerable, absorbing at a rate of 11.8 times that of the forearm.

Wearing protective equipment is also important and varies with the toxicity of the chemical. Protective head gear includes not only a hard hat, but also goggles or face shield and a respirator. Eye protection and respirators are required with pesticides identified with danger labels, but are a good idea around any pesticide, particularly those in concentrated form, she says.

Goggles protect eyes from pesticides vapors, dust and splashes, while respirators prevent inhaling dust, powders and sprays into the lungs.

(Cont'd)

Along with wearing protective clothing and equipment, farmers also must clean their gear after each wearing. "Special washing procedures need to be followed to ensure the farmer isn't reusing contaminated clothing," she says.

Pesticide-soiled clothing must be washed separately from regular family laundry. Protective clothing should be washed daily. It's a good idea to wear unlined nitrile gloves when handling pesticide-soiled clothing, adds Eggertson.

Hot water, a full wash level, a normal cycle and heavy duty detergent should all be used. Clothing should be washed at least twice and then line dried to avoid contaminating the dryer. After washing, the machine should be rinsed thoroughly by using the full wash cycle with detergent.

"All these steps are time consuming, but your family's health is certainly worth the time and effort," says Eggertson.

Equipment should be washed in hot soapy water. Gloves should be checked daily for pin holes and discarded if cracked or discolored. They should also be washed inside and out. Respirator cartridges or disposable respirators should be changed at the first sign of chemical odor.

Washing also extends to the farmer himself, she says. "Immediately after spraying, farmers should shower as soon as possible to wash away any residues."

For more information on protective clothing and equipment, contact any Alberta Agriculture district office or write for the pamphlet, "Protective clothing for pesticide use" (Homedex 1353-90), from the Alberta Agriculture Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, T6H 5T6.

Contact: Bertha Eggertson
427-2412

May 21, 1990
For immediate release

Protect yourself in the backyard, too

Farm wives are often the starting defensive line in the protective clothing their husbands wear, and now they are using the same protective clothing when they use pesticides in their gardens and yards says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"We found, through the years, that making farm women aware of the necessity of protective clothing was the link to more and more farmers starting to wear protective clothing. Now, farm women have extended the same good safety practices to when they use pesticides themselves," says Bertha Eggertson, provincial clothing and textiles specialists with the department's home economics branch.

Keeping skin covered and changing and washing clothes are just as important when using pesticides in the backyard as in the field, she says. "Safety is always the best and first rule because every pesticide has some level of toxicity. Start by reading the label for its precautions."

Eggertson says there are several basic rules to follow starting with mixing the pesticides outdoors or in well-ventilated areas only. Skin protection is essential. Long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, waterproof gloves, boots and a washable waterproof hat are minimum requirements when mixing and applying pesticide sprays.

After handling the chemical, have a shower to wash skin and hair. Also, clothing must be laundered and washed separately from other clothing. Wash in hot water with a heavy-duty detergent and hang clothing outdoors to dry.

"Another important safety component is to keep children and pets away from treated areas until exposure can be minimized. That means 48 hours for lawns treated with herbicides, or 24 hours after watering or rain," she says.

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Contact: Bertha Eggertson
427-2412

May 21, 1990
For immediate release

Disposable coveralls becoming more popular

About a third of a group of Alberta farmers involved in a disposable coveralls research study, bought and used disposable coveralls after they tried them in the study says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Disposable coveralls are becoming more popular," says Bertha Eggertson, Alberta Agriculture provincial clothing and textiles specialist. "Farmers are realizing these coveralls are a cheap extra layer of protection and add to their peace of mind. They can discard the disposables and not have to worry about laundering and pesticide exposure."

University of Alberta researchers have found the disposables are a good way to avoid skin contact with pesticides. As well, studies are looking at their design for better fit and ease of wear.

Eggertson says farmers must make sure the disposable coveralls they buy have been recommended by the manufacturer for pesticide use. "Not all disposables are suitable for use with pesticides, especially liquid pesticides. Check product information and ask questions before you buy."

Appropriate disposable coveralls fall into two price ranges. The least expensive run between $10 and $14. More expensive disposables can costs two or three times as much. "The types differ in their degree of repellency or impermeability, durability and comfort. Each has advantages and limits. Your selection should be made with care and your purchase suit its use," she says.

Disposable coveralls can be worn more than once, but care must be taken not to contaminate the interior when taken off. Between uses, coveralls should be hung in a well-ventilated area away from other clothing. They should be replaced if they rip, tear, develop holes or thin spots or if fibers are raised to the surface forming pills. When discarding a disposable coverall, place it in a plastic garbage bag and take it to a landfill site. Don't burn it.

(Cont'd)

"Farmers also need to remember disposable coveralls don't take the place of basic protective clothing, it's an extra layer. They should still wear long sleeved shirts, full-length trousers, gloves, boots and a hard hat."

All work clothes worn under disposables should still be laundered according to recommendations for contaminated clothing.

For more information, contact Eggertson in Edmonton at 427-2412 or any Alberta Agriculture district home economist.

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Contact: Bertha Eggertson
427-2412

May 21, 1990
For immediate release

Check protective gloves daily

Because hands account for the greatest percentage of exposure farmers receive when they work with farm chemicals, gloves are one of the most important features of protective clothing.

"Awareness about that fact, coupled with research to develop better fitting gloves has, and will, help farmers better equip themselves while they handle pesticides and other farm chemicals," says Bertha Eggertson, Alberta Agriculture provincial clothing and textiles specialist.

"We know hands can account for anywhere between under 25 per cent to over 90 per cent of chemical exposure, so wearing appropriate gloves is critical to the farmer protecting himself from any potential danger," she says.

Cloth and leather gloves, because they absorb chemicals and become a source of continuous contamination, must not be used. Instead unlined neoprene and nitrile gloves are recommended. Wearing sleeves over the top of gloves prevents spills and splashes from running down inside the gloves, she notes, unless the farmer is working overhead such as when changing sprayer nozzles.

Eggertson says safe handling also means gloves should be washed inside and out daily and checked for holes by filling them full of water. If there are holes or rips, the gloves should be replaced immediately.

Farmers have complained gloves are awkward when they try to adjust nozzle sprays or other actions that require dexterity. University of Alberta researchers are working on improving the quality of glove fit. Their study is also aimed at increasing farmer acceptance and use of protective gloves. "Results from this ongoing study have helped our awareness efforts, so more farmers will wear and care for protective gloves," says Eggertson.

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Contact: Bertha Eggertson
427-2412

May 21, 1990
For immediate release

Use protective clothing information

Alberta Agriculture has a number of sources for farm families who need information on protective clothing and how to make farm chemical use more safe.

"If farm families are unsure about the safety gear they need this spring, we have a number of excellent resources available to help them plus, district staff and specialists can answer their questions," says Bertha Eggertson, Alberta Agriculture's provincial clothing and textiles specialist.

An eight minute video, "Suit Up for Safety", can be borrowed through any Alberta Agriculture district office. The video discusses the need for protective clothing, lists recommended items and the value of disposable protective clothing such as coveralls and gloves.

Alberta Agriculture's "blue book" (Guide to Crop Protection in Alberta 1990, Part 1 Chemical) has an extensive section on safety precautions. The guide details how to reduce exposure, protective clothing and equipment, storage and cleaning of contaminated clothing, symptoms of poisoning and first aid information.

Much of the same information is also available through an Alberta Agriculture pamphlet, "Protective clothing for pesticide use". The publication also details what not to wear. This includes cloth or leather gloves, leather shoes or sneakers, a baseball cap and wrist watch with a leather band. "All these materials absorb chemicals and prolong exposure to the wearer," she says.

The publication is available through Alberta Agriculture district offices and the Alberta Agriculture Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, T5H 5T6. Please quote Homedex number 1353-90.

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Contact: Bertha Eggertson
427-2412

May 21, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

SOVIET AGRICULTURAL TRADE MISSION IN ALBERTA

Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley and Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan welcomed a Soviet agricultural trade mission last week. The seven-person delegation from the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic (RSFSR), led by Republic Agriculture Minister Anatoly Ustjuzanin, visited our province May 13 through 20 for the third annual Alberta-RSFSR consultations on agriculture. Under a protocol agreement signed by Alberta and the Russian republic in 1986, annual meetings are held to discuss areas of mutual cooperation in agriculture. One of the highlights to date of the unique RSFSR-Alberta cooperative project has been the successful Ross Alta joint venture in livestock genetics established by Alta Genetics Inc. of Calgary. During the current trade mission, Minister Ustjuzanin met with Isley and McClellan, as well as with officials of Alberta Agriculture and representatives of private business interests. The meetings focused on joint Alberta-RSFSR efforts in agricultural production, processing and marketing. Topics of discussion included grain and oilseed production, beef cattle production, food processing, land evaluation and leasing, and seed exchanges. "We are very pleased with the impressive progress we have achieved thus far under the Alberta-RSFSR protocol agreement, and are delighted to welcome Minister Ustjuzanin and his delegation to Alberta for the third annual round of meetings," said Isley announcing the delegation's arrival. "Certainly, we've made notable achievements to date, and I am optimistic that these and future discussions will lead to greater co-operation between our two provinces and a renewal of the co-operation agreement," added McClellan. For more information contact, Brad Klak, Mr. Isley's executive assistant at 427-2137, Louise Riopel, Mrs. McClellan's executive assistant at 422-9156 or Doug Hill, Alberta Agriculture international trade director at 427-4241.

(Cont'd)

FARMING FOR THE FUTURE VIDEO

The Alberta government's Farming for the Future program has been an integral part of facing the challenge to meet the province's productive potential since 1979. Now, there's a new video tape on the program available from Alberta Agriculture's Film Library. The 11-minute production looks at the aims, challenges and successes of Farming for the Future. Specific projects, such as on-farm demonstrations, are also examined. To book the video for lending, please write the Alberta Agriculture Film Library, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

THE GREAT PUMPKIN CHALLENGE

Alberta boasts its own pumpkin capital. Smoky Lake claims the status and is one of five official Canadian weigh-in centres for the World Pumpkin Confederation's annual heaviest pumpkin contest. Howard Dill, of Smoky Lake, is a former record holder. The 1990 weigh-in will be October 8. First prize is $3,000 (U.S.) for the world's heaviest pumpkin. The town of Smoky Lake will add $1,000 to the pot if the world champion is weighed in Smoky Lake. For more information at this event and related activities call Barry at 656-3508 or Larry at 656-3539. A pumpkin growing tips brochure has been put together by the Smoky Lake Pumpkin Growers Association is available from the local Alberta Agriculture district office.

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AGRI-NEWS

JUN - 4 1990

May 28, 1990

For immediate release

This Week

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE

May 28, 1990
For immediate release

Anniversary celebrations highlight July women's week

This July Alberta farm women will be celebrating 60 years of getting together to expand the knowledge and skills needed for daily living and adapting to a changing world.

Alberta Women's Week will be July 23 through 26 in Olds. "Participants can celebrate this very special anniversary and also have the usual learning opportunities from the wide variety of sessions," says Colleen Pierce, publicity chairman and Lac La Biche district home economist.

Alberta's Lieutenant-Governor will be a special guest at this year's conference. The Honorable Helen Hunley will speak to a general session of all participants. "Her topic is the family, our province's most valuable resource," says Pierce.

The conference keynote address is from Carol-Lee Heffernan who takes a look at "raisin' your sights for the next 60". The personal resource company president will share ideas about self-esteem and reaching personal potential.

Select-a-session topics range through housing trends for the '90s, diversification of the family farm, building family communication, the Goods and Services Tax, profiling Alberta Beef and fresh vegetables, fatigue, soil erosion, literacy, strengthening rural communities and later life career choices.

"This year we're continuing the very popular optional first day workshops we started in 1989. There's real variety in the workshops and they will be a lot of fun as well as have full educational value," she says.

One workshop features Jean Pare, a former caterer, who developed the popular Company's Coming cookbook series. The Alberta entrepreneur will share her experiences. Participants also have their choice of: practicing safe and responsible operation and shutdown of equipment; managing a serger; tasting Alberta wild rice and barley; and, an historical walking tour of Olds.

(Cont'd)

Regular features such as the morning gentle gym, an introductory evening dessert mixer, morning thoughts and evening reflections are still part of the program.

Anniversary celebrations will be on the final day, July 26. Past participants at Women's Week are invited for a special morning of activities. Included will be memory lane fashions, an anniversary cake and luncheon and breaking into decade groups. Anyone wishing to attend only the anniversary celebrations should register and pay the $5 fee before July 13.

"The conference is affordable and can be both a rewarding and renewing break for a farm woman," says Pierce.

For more information or a registration package, contact any Alberta Agriculture district office.

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Contact: Colleen Pierce
623-5218

Joan Heath
349-4465

Karen Goad
227-6565

May 28, 1990
For immediate release

60 years later and still strong

In 1929 an Erskine farm woman asked the Minister of Agriculture to consider an Alberta farm women's rest week.

Isobel Townsend had just visited the Olds School of Agriculture and thought the spacious buildings, grounds and beautiful gardens would be a good place for farm women to have a holiday. The minister, George Hoadley, agreed with her and in July, 1930 the first women's week was held at both Olds and Vermilion agriculture schools. Seventy-two women and 10 pre-school children were at the first program.

This year Alberta Women's Week is celebrating its 60th anniversary at Olds College, its now permanent location. Anniversary celebrations will take the spotlight during the final day of the conference, July 26. But this year's expected 250 participants will spend the first days of the conference as others through the years have--reflecting on their way of life and their role on the farm, learning new skills and sharing with old and new friends.

While rest was part of the billing at the first women's week, it soon became a sideline to the learning, says Shirley Myers, current head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch. The department's annual report from that year says: "Suitable entertainment was provided and an effort was made to see that the delegates had a good rest as well as some profitable instruction".

"Alberta Women's Week history shows the pioneer farm women were eager and interested to learn, so developing knowledge and skills became the key focus. That development has stayed at the center of women's week. But, time was included, and is still included, for fellowship, group interaction and exercise in the program," Myers says.

Homemaking skills were popular in early years, but the week's program included more than those skills. "Women learned about preventative medicine and health care. Pioneer women were even encouraged to try something they apparently thought was impossible: gardening on the Prairies," she says.

(Cont'd)

Through the years, Alberta Women's Week programs have continued to be both diverse and current. Farm management topics were introduced, and relationships, communication, nutrition, energy conservation and stress found their way onto conference agendas. "Controversial topics weren't avoided. The conference has stayed both popular and fresh because it has always looked at changing needs and how to adapt to societal change," says Myers.

Because Alberta Women's Week is a provincial home economics extension program, Alberta Agriculture district and regional home economists and home economics specialists have spearheaded organization and promotion of the annual conference.

Farm and rural women's organizations have been long time supporters of the program. Alberta Women's Institutes, the Women of Unifarm and more recently Alberta Women in Support of Agriculture have been part of the organizing committee.

In 1983, Alberta Women's Week founder Isobel Townsend was recognized for her legacy in rural Alberta and was inducted into the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame. She described the week then as "such a happy week--a chance to learn, to grow."

"Women are still learning, growing and having a great time at Alberta Women's Week," says Myers. "While we celebrate this 60th anniversary, we're also looking ahead and know there will still be challenging needs and interests rural women will want to explore together in the future."

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Contact: Shirley Myers
427-2412

May 28, 1990
For immediate release

Clean auger between uses

If you use an auger for feed, treated seed, fertilizer and market grain, cleaning the auger between uses is an important safety precaution says an Alberta Agriculture livestock specialist.

"Farmers are advised to use a different auger for fertilizer and treated seed than for feed and market grain. If only one auger is available, precautions need to be taken to ensure thorough cleaning after moving fertilizer or treated seed," says Pat Ramsey, northeast regional livestock specialist.

Recently Ramsey visited a farm where two cows died and four others were sick. The cause was ammonia poisoning, he says. An auger used for feed pellets had earlier been used for urea (46-0-0) fertilizer and wasn't cleaned between the uses.

"We're advising farmers if they use the same auger for fertilizer and feed, to be sure and clean the auger out thoroughly before they auger any feed. It doesn't take much fertilizer to kill a cow," says Ramsey.

To clean an auger, run it empty or backwards and then flush with some waste feed and water before it's used for livestock feed or market grain. Ramsey adds yard, pasture or field spills of any fertilizer should be cleaned up. "Cattle seem to like the taste and are drawn to it, and they don't have to eat very much to get sick."

Symptoms are visible quickly, he says. "In the most recent case, the first cow died within four hours of being fed the contaminated feed. Symptoms have been known to develop within 20 to 30 minutes." Symptoms include signs of severe abdominal pain, muscle tremors, unco-ordination, weakness to the point of collapsing, difficult rapid breathing, slobbering, frequent urination, bloating, violent struggling and bellowing.

(Cont'd)

Clean auger between uses (cont'd)

These symptoms are also similar if cattle ingest ammonium nitrate (34-0-0) fertilizer, a common pasture fertilizer. Additional symptoms include diarrhea, vomiting and muddy discoloration of eye whites. Affected animals may take up to six hours to develop symptoms. The nitrate interferes with the blood's ability to carry oxygen. Death follows a brief coma and usually occurs within 12 to 24 hours of ingestion.

Ramsey also reminds farmers treated seed can poison cattle and if an auger is used for treated seed it should be cleaned before any other use. Cleaning spills is also important to prevent poisoning.

Milk fever and grass tetany are also common at this time of year. These conditions have similar symptoms to poisoning. "If your cattle do get into some fertilizer or develop the symptoms I've described, then call your local veterinarian right away, as prompt diagnosis and treatment is required to save the affected animals."

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Contact: Pat Ramsey
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May 28, 1990
For immediate release

Equipment choices in hard to spray areas

Troublesome weed patches and areas of insect infestation sometimes aren't sprayed because they're too hard to get at with a field sprayer says an Alberta Agriculture equipment specialist.

"Spraying fencelines, pastures and roadside ditches may be difficult because most field sprayer booms are equipped with outrigger wheels so narrow spaces are inaccessible and on rough terrain the sprayers are ineffective," says Terry Footz.

"Small weed patches also get missed because wide booms are too large for the area, and spraying outside the area could cause excessive crop damage," he adds.

Farmers have two options, he says. They can either purchase small sprayers or make modifications to their field sprayer.

Small sprayers equipped with a 12 volt direct current electric diaphragm pump are available in models that can be towed, mounted on a three-point hitch and skid mounted for sliding into a pickup truck or for mounting on an all-terrain vehicle. These sprayers are usually equipped with small booms and a handgun.

Just larger, are sprayers with six to 10 metre booms with a three-point hitch mounting. Tank sizes vary from 100 to 500 litres.

"These sprayers are much more versatile than large field sprayers and are relatively inexpensive," he says.

As well, old field sprayers can be modified for multi-purpose use. Simple adaptations include shortening the boom and removing outrigger wheels. The shorter boom can be suspended by a chain or cable running back to the sprayer frame. "The boom already has regularly spaced nozzles and if an off-centre nozzle tip was mounted on the boom end, then extended coverage into the fence line or roadside ditch is possible," he says.

(Cont'd)

Equipment choices in hard to spray areas (cont'd)

In some cases, he says, using any type of boom on a sprayer isn't practical because of tall growth or obstructions which foul the boom or otherwise interfere with a proper spray pattern. An alternative is a boomless spray system with one large off-centre tip mounted on the side of the sprayer body. Width of coverage on this type of adaptation would vary depending on nozzle size, pressure, speed of travel and wind conditions. The average would be between six and seven metres, he says.

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Contact: Terry Footz
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May 28, 1990
For immediate release

Wide blade soil conservation project yields results

A co-operative research and demonstration project in northeastern Alberta gave the region's farmers a look at a new technology that could help their soil conservation efforts.

Last year a narrow-spaced wide blade cultivator was used on demonstration sites in the Counties of Two Hills and Vermilion River and the Municipal Districts of Wainwright and Provost. All four agricultural service boards, along with Ducks Unlimited and the Canada Alberta Agreement on Soil, Water and Cropping Research and Technology Transfer (CARTT) funded the project.

"The project introduced a technology not currently used in the region--a system that could increase residue retention after tillage operations. Local field days were held to show farmers the technique. As well, the sites were included on agricultural service board tours," says Carol Bettac, northeast regional soil conservation co-ordinator. The demonstration sites on summerfallow ranged between 80 and 160 acres. Half were cultivated conventionally and the other half with the wide blade.

After reviewing data from the sites several preliminary conclusions and recommendations have been made, she says. Among the conclusions: the wide blade conserves more residue cover and moisture in a summerfallow operation than conventional tillage; weed control can be done more effectively with a combination of chemical control and wide blade tillage; and, draft, while not quantitatively measured, appeared to be slightly more than for a conventional cultivator.

"The final conclusion was that the general attitude of farmers toward summerfallow will have to change before this type of conservation cultivation will become prevalent," she says.

Five recommendations for using a narrow-spaced wide blade cultivator also came out of the project, she adds.

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The recommendations are: for the best weed control, the depth of summerfallow operation should be kept as shallow as possible without ridging; travel speed must be kept at five miles per hour or less, as speed above this destroys more trash and ridging is more pronounced; coulters are necessary in fields where grass or heavy residue cover exists as grass roots and residue wrap around the shank causing ridging and residue cover loss; fall applied chemicals control winter annuals reducing the number of tillage operations, and therefore input costs; and, the best time to work a field is during hot, dry conditions, as this gives optimum weed control.

For more information about the project, contact Bettac in Vermilion at 853-8109.

CARTT's objective is to develop and transfer appropriate conservation tillage and cropping technology which will minimize soil degradation and sustain economic crop production. Projects must meet this criteria to be given funding approval.

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Contact: Carol Bettac
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May 28, 1990
For immediate release

Alberta is full of beans

The attributes today's consumer wants from food should have Alberta's pulse growers smiling from ear-to-ear says an Alberta Agriculture foods and nutrition specialist.

Common Alberta pulse crops include the grain legumes of beans, peas and lentils. In the 1980s, pulse crops became important alternatives to more traditional crops diversifying Alberta farmer's production choices.

"Grain legumes are low in fat and calories and don't contain cholesterol. They're a good source of protein when combined with complementary foods, an excellent source of iron, high in fibre and low in sodium," says Linda St. Onge. "They can be used in all sorts of trendy ethnic dishes and to top off their advantages, they're economical."

Dried grain legumes, particularly beans, don't deserve the consumer perception that they are difficult to prepare, she adds. The first step is to rehydrate them. Start by washing the beans and discarding any foreign matter or discolored beans.

Beans can be quickly soaked or soaked overnight. In the quick method, use three cups of water for each cup of beans. Bring to a boil and simmer for two minutes. Remove from heat and let stand for two hours, then discard the soaking water. For overnight soaking, again use three cups of water for each cup of beans. Soak for 12 hours and discard the soaking water.

"After soaking, beans can be completely or partly cooked to use in your favorite recipes," she says. "Remember cooked beans are more than double the volume of dry beans."

Cooking grain legumes until they are tender is very important, she says, because some toxic compounds are present in uncooked beans. "Make sure beans are cooked before adding any acidic ingredients a recipe may call for, such as tomatoes, or the beans won't soften."

(Cont'd)

Alberta is full of beans (cont'd)

She also has a tip to help reduce flatulence caused by the natural sugars dissolved into the cooking water. "You can drain off the cooking water, but the trade-off is losing some of the water-soluble B vitamins."

Baked beans are popular through the year and bean salads are a perennial summer favorite, she says. "You might like to try Alberta beans in something a little different, such as hummus, a spicy dip made with mashed chick-peas."

Beans can be canned or frozen for ready use in recipes. To freeze, pack a freezer container with completely cooked beans and freeze. To can, a pressure cooker must be used. "Soak the beans, then pack hot beans into hot jars and fill the jar with boiling water, leaving one inch of headspace. Remove air bubbles, adjust the lids and process at 10 pound pressure--11 pound in a dial gauge canner--for 75 minutes if using pint jars and 90 minutes with quart jars."

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Contact: Linda St. Onge
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May 28, 1990
For immediate release

Check conifers for white pine weevils

A wilting leader may indicate white pine weevils have infested your spruce or pine tree say Alberta Agriculture specialists.

"Farmers and nurserymen must be on the look-out for this pest in their shelterbelts and plantings," says Brendan Casement, shelterbelt specialist at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre in Edmonton.

Weevil infestations won't kill trees, but it will injure or kill the leader, or top, of spruce and pine trees limiting their growth, says Pam North, information officer at the centre. "Most of our calls are about damage to spruce trees, so don't let their name let you think they only attack pines," she says.

Last year's damage from the weevils may be seen this spring. Feeding activity of weevil larvae cuts off the tree's water supply and affected tree leaders will wilt. Leader needles and upper branch needles will also eventually turn brown. "If you think a tree has weevils, check for small holes in the leader," says North.

The pests feed in the holes then lay their eggs there. The eggs hatch into larvae that tunnel down the leader eventually girdling it and cutting off the water supply.

New growth after a weevil attack will be bushy, and if the insects remain, then strangely shaped trees result, says Casement. "Their use as shelterbelts is reduced and the trees are unsaleable for nurseries."

Pruning halts the weevil activity. Prune just above the topmost undamaged branches in late July or as soon as the damage is noticed. Pruning must be done before the adults emerge in late summer. "If possible, the infested leader should be burned. Try to train a side branch to stand up as a new leader," he adds.

(Cont'd)

North notes usually two or more years of growth are affected by the weevils. As well, if the infested areas aren't pruned, other disease organisms can enter through the holes in the leader and attack the tree.

"Once an attack has been discovered, pruning and careful checking should be repeated for a number of years," advises Casement.

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Contact: Pam North
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Brendan Casement
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May 28, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

NUTRITION RAPPING

"Cut the chocolate, cut the chips, cut the soft drinks, trim the hips" was part of a winning rap song by 12 elementary school students from Bellis. The group of grade three, five and six students won a northeastern Alberta nutrition month contest that asked participants to give a nutrition message in rap. "Not all the members of the committee sponsoring the contest knew what rap was, but the 119 youth organizations who took part in the contest set them straight," says Monica King, Alberta Agriculture district home economist in St. Paul. The winning rap was professionally recorded and played on local radio stations during nutrition month. The winners also received $600 from the Alberta Food Processors Association. The Wainwright Clove Crafters 4-H Club won the $200 second prize in the Fab 4 Nutrition Rap contest. Third place went to Julie Kowal and Stephanie Millman, of Mundare. Registered dietitians, nutritionists and professional home economists from the northeast region were represented on the nutrition month committee and they received funding assistance from the Lakeland Home Economics Association, the Lakeland Registered Dietitians Association, the Alberta Food Processors Association as well as support from agricultural service boards, agricultural societies and health units in the region. For more information contact Monica King, committee chairman in St. Paul at 645-6201.

COAL MINING RECLAMATION RESEARCH REPORTS

One of the conditions coal mining operators face when they surface mine is that they return the land to a capability equivalent to what existed before they mined. This means once mining is completed, the land will be available for farming. To ensure companies and regulators are using the best information available to meet this requirement, the provincial government's Reclamation Research Technical Advisory Committee (RRTAC) and the coal and utility industries have been working

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COAL MINING RECLAMATION RESEARCH REPORTS (cont'd)

together to identify methods for reclaiming mined land for agricultural use. Two major field-based studies have now been completed and the results are available to interested parties. The Battle River Soil Reconstruction Project Five Year Summary, by Len Leskiw of CAN-AG Enterprises, summarizes the results of a five year study of methods required to return capability to land surface mined for coal in the Battle River area of central Alberta. Studies were conducted on: the amounts of subsoil required; the potential of gypsum and bottom ash to amend adverse soil properties; and, the effects of slope angle and aspect. Forage and cereal crop growth was evaluated, as were changes in soil chemistry, density and moisture holding characteristics. The study found forage yields on reclaimed land were as good as regional yields and soil properties appeared to improve with time. The results for cereals were less encouraging, however, it was felt the methods of plot construction, rather than any problems associated with mining and reclamation as currently practiced, were the cause. Another five year study was done in the Highvale plains area and looked at suitable thickness of subsoil to replace over mine spoil. At this site, both forage and cereal yields were considered as good as regional yields and soils were improving over time. For more information about these and other RRTAC studies, contact Chris Powter, RRTAC chairman, at Alberta Environment's land reclamation division, 3rd Floor, 9820-106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 2K6 or call 427-4147.

MARKETING BOARD HOSTS TOUR FOR VEGETABLE BUYERS

The Alberta Fresh Vegetable Marketing Board is hosting a tour for major produce buyers of Alberta fresh field grown vegetables on June 27 and June 28. The tour will provide an opportunity for buyers to meet with Alberta producers to improve communications, increase awareness and exchange information. Through the tour, buyers are able to see, touch and taste the advantages of buying Alberta grown vegetables. On the first day, southern growers will be showcased. Eldorado Farms, Melnik

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MARKETING BOARD HOSTS TOUR FOR VEGETABLE BUYERS (cont'd)
Farms, Hopkins Vegetable Farm, Guow Quality Onions, Van Giessen Growers and Bassano Growers Co-op are on the agenda. Edmonton area producers will be featured during the second day of tour. They include: So Yang Market Gardens, Kuhlmann Market Gardens, the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre, Riverbend Gardens, Premium Crops and Holes Greenhouses. Alberta boasts a wide variety of fresh nutritious and delicious vegetables from beans to zucchini including corn, carrots, cabbage, peas, onions, rutabaga, brussel sprouts, broccoli, chinese vegetables, kohlrabi, spinach, squash, witloof and many others. It's estimated the commercial field grown vegetable industry contributed over $20 million to Alberta's economy in 1989. For more information about the tour, contact Sharon Chmielewski, manager of the Alberta Fresh Vegetable Marketing Board, in Lethbridge at 327-0447.

FARM SAFETY FOR KIDS ON VIDEO

Nearly one-quarter of all farm deaths are children under sixteen years of age. Seen through the eyes of a child, a farm isn't only a workplace, but a huge playground. Much has been said about the obvious dangers--such as power take-offs and equipment with exposed parts--but, other hidden dangers are often ignored. All types of danger are discussed in an 18 minute video entitled "Farm Safety for Kids" (VT 368-9). Included in the Dow Chemical produced video are 15 things that can be can be done to help keep farm children safe. For lending information, write the Alberta Agriculture Film Library at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6E 4R3.

16TH PORK CONGRESS JUNE 12-14

Swine nutrition specialist James Pettigrew will headline educational seminars at the Alberta Pork Congress June 12 through 14 at Red Deer's Westerner Park. Also on the agenda are swine and trade shows. For more information, contact the Pork Congress office at 340-5307.

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

JUN 27 1990

June 4, 1990

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE

June 4, 1990
For immediate release

Isley and McClellan call for Hall of Fame nominations

Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley and Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan are inviting the province's agricultural community to submit nominations for the 1991 Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame awards.

Nomination forms are now available for this award given annually to Albertans who have played a key role in the development and advancement of agriculture.

Three outstanding individuals were added to the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame in 1990. William (Bill) Lobay, the late Irene Leda Jensen and the late Edward Shimbashi were inducted in March. A total of 85 men and women have been honored since the award was created in 1951.

People who have devoted their lives to agriculture are honored in the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame. Their contributions range from improving agricultural practices to strengthening the rural way of life and supporting the family farm," says Isley.

"Induction into the Hall of Fame is the greatest honor Alberta Agriculture can bestow on an individual. The award recognizes outstanding contributions by Albertans to the agriculture industry and to the rural community," says McClellan.

Any Albertan who has offered dedicated service to the development of agriculture at the local, provincial, national or international level may be eligible for entrance to the Hall of Fame.

Because agriculture plays an important role in many aspects of life in Alberta, previous inductees have come from varied backgrounds and disciplines. All have had one thing in common: their careers have strengthened their industry, their communities and their province.

Individuals inducted into the Hall of Fame for 1991 will be honored at a banquet and ceremony next March. The annual awards ceremony traditionally coincides with the beginning of Agriculture Week and inductees are featured in a province-wide campaign highlighting this special week.

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Portraits and histories of the inductees will be added to the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame on the main floor of department headquarters, the J.G. O'Donoghue Building in Edmonton.

Nominations for the 1991 Agriculture Hall of Fame must be received by July 31, 1990. Nominees must be Canadian citizens to be eligible for induction. Nomination forms are available through Alberta Agriculture district offices or by writing to: Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame, Information Services, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Contact: Brad Klak
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June 4, 1990
For immediate release

Livestock industry diversification plan announced

Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley has introduced the Livestock Industry Diversification Act in the Alberta Legislature.

Subject to the passage of the new legislation regarding the production of game animals in Alberta, responsibility for overseeing game animal production will be transferred from Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife to Alberta Agriculture, and the sale of elk meat will be allowed.

The protection of wild animal herds continues to be a primary concern of the government, and will remain the responsibility of the Fish and Wildlife Division of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife. Game animal production will be prohibited on Provincial Crown Land. Hunting, paid or otherwise, of game production animals will continue to be forbidden.

Until this time, the sale of meat from game farmed animals has been banned in Alberta. The province's game animal farmers have received income from the sale of breeding animals and velvet antlers.

The sale of elk meat would be permitted in Alberta under the proposed legislation, subject to strict conditions, including the use of tamper-proof ear tags, strict animal inventory control, farm inspections, livestock manifests for transportation, meat inspection and ribbon branding of carcasses. These conditions would be imposed to ensure that only those elk that can be identified as originating from a licensed game animal production farm would be permitted to be slaughtered. To provide tight control over the slaughter of elk, only certain plants would be designated for this purpose.

"I am very pleased that the new livestock industry diversification legislation is to be introduced. In allowing the sale of elk meat within Alberta, we'll be opening up a very promising agricultural enterprise for the province's agriculture sector," says Isley.

LeRoy Fjordbotten, Forestry, Lands and Wildlife minister, indicated the transfer would neither undermine his department's mandate nor compromise its ability to protect the province's wildlife.

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"I want to emphatically confirm that, as I have in the past, I will continue to insist that game farming pose no risk to our wildlife," says Fjordbotten. "My department will continue to closely monitor game animal production activities as they relate to the wildlife resources of the province. Should any problems develop, I will act as decisively as I have in the past, with actions such as closing the border to the importation of animals for game farming, prosecuting violators and suspending the license privileges of those who refuse to operate within the rules. I continue to have the legislative power necessary to protect Alberta's valued wildlife resources. My colleagues and I remain committed to protecting Alberta's wildlife and have reinforced the mandate of my department on critical matters such as disease control, protection of genetic purity, importation of animals, and export of animals and non-meat products.

"Game farming is essentially an agricultural activity. The transfer of responsibility for overseeing game animal production to Alberta Agriculture will allow game farmers full access to the department's production management, extension and marketing programs."

There are now approximately 3,300 elk being raised on 120 licensed game animal farms in Alberta. Elk production has the potential to be a highly rewarding farming operation in that it provides farmers with three different saleable products: meat, velvet antlers, and breeding stock, each of which is in strong demand in both domestic and international markets.

"The production of elk provides an excellent means of diversifying livestock farming in Alberta. Elk are naturally adapted to the Alberta climate. They adjust readily to human interaction, and, with routine parasite control and vaccinations, pose no significant disease risk to domestic livestock and wildlife," said Isley in the announcement.

"Another key advantage is that elk production is very environmentally friendly, as elk are fed almost entirely on pasture and hay. A thriving game production industry has an important role to play in the government's commitment to diversification in agriculture."

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Mr. Isley concluded his announcement by noting, "Game animal production presents a very exciting opportunity for agriculture in Alberta. Our farmers can now continue as a leading force in the game animal production industry in Canada."

For more informaion contact: Ken Spiller, Alberta Agriculture animal industry division in Edmonton at 427-5091; Terry Church, Alberta Agriculture, animal health division in Edmonton at 427-2166; or, Bob Stevenson, Alberta Forestry, Land and Wildlife fish and wildlife division at 427-6750.

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Contact: Brad Klak
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June 4, 1990
For immediate release

International conference showcases Alberta cattle industry

Alberta's cattle industry will be showcased this summer when cattle breeders from across North, South and Central America come to Calgary to take part in an international cattle breeders conference.

The 26th annual Confederacion Interamericana de Ganaderos (CIAGA) convention will be hosted by the Alberta-Canada All Breeders Association (ACABA) July 13 through 17. The CIAGA convention is making its first appearance in Canada since it was in Toronto in 1972. About 300 international visitors are expected to come to Alberta for the conference.

"Having members of CIAGA here in the province will give us an excellent chance to showcase Alberta purebred cattle. This will mean increased sales of Alberta livestock, livestock genetics and other agricultural products," says Drew Mundie, ACABA president.

"Well over 90 per cent of the Latin Americans who come to conference will be making their first trip to Canada, so not only is our cattle industry in the spotlight, but also our culture and tourism destinations," says Doug Bienert, an Alberta Agriculture trade director who has been assisting ACABA with promoting the conference. "All in all, it's a tremendous opportunity to show what Alberta has to offer in a number of areas to people with little or no exposure to our country or our cattle industry."

Explaining world leading standards and tough health and disease controls, profiling outstanding genetic technology in sessions and tours and seeing stock at shows and on ranches will show the Alberta industry at its best, he adds.

But the conference's long-term success to the provincial industry also hinges on participation from local breeders, he says. "The program's atmosphere allows for a lot of interaction. Breeders talking to each other--sharing their experiences and successes--can be the biggest influence or selling point of Alberta's cattle industry."

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The conference begins during the last three days of the Calgary Stampede and continues with post-conference tours through to July 26. Special guests at the opening ceremonies include Don Mazankowski, Deputy Prime Minister and federal agriculture minister, Ernie Isley, Alberta's agriculture minister, City of Calgary officials and representatives of Alberta purebred cattle breed associations.

Technical sessions, a trade show and special events highlight conference activities. Technical sessions will include embryo transfer, crossbreeding and animal health and disease updates with speakers from Chile, Argentina, Mexico and the United States. Special events include attending the Calgary Stampede and Spruce Meadows. As well, two post-conference tours will take delegates to meet cattle breeders on their farms and ranches and livestock shows at major exhibitions in Red Deer and Edmonton. A special horse race will be held in their honor at Northlands racetrack on July 19.

ACABA was granted the conference two years ago after making a presentation to CIAGA's directors in February, 1988. Last fall Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley and 35 other Albertans attended the annual convention in Mexico and promoted this year's Calgary convention with an "Alberta night".

Alberta is currently the only CIAGA member province. Twenty-three purebred cattle associations are ACABA members. All will take part in the international conference.

CIAGA started as a concern over health issues and joined breeders in an effort to eradicate the screwworm, a tropical cattle pest. It has grown to a membership of more than 20 countries in the Americas with a broad mandate to improve the livestock industry. Technical assistance, marketing, rural concerns, environment, health, and education are among its areas of purpose.

For more information about the conference, contact the ACABA office in Calgary at 228-3467.

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Contact: Doug Bienert
427-4241

June 4, 1990
For immediate release

Rinsing and removing pesticide containers

Rinsing agricultural chemical containers before removal to container sites is the first step in responsible container disposal.

"An important part of this system starts at the farm level," says Casey Van Teeling, of Alberta Environment's pesticide management branch. "The program is one of stewardship by all parties. The farmer's responsibility is to triple rinse and puncture containers and take them to a container site."

Both the Crop Protection Institute of Canada, representing the industry, and government agencies have strongly promoted triple or pressure rinsing at the farm level for a number of years, he says.

A department brochure outlines the reasons for triple rinsing: environmental protection, dollars saved and for safety. "The last point on safety is most important. The smaller the amounts of residue left in the cans, the safer the system will be for all the downstream processing and recycling," he says. For example, he says, a well drained, but unrinsed, container may have approximately half an ounce of chemical (14 mL) left inside. "That means a substantial amount of chemical could be left at a 20,000 capacity container site if containers weren't rinsed.

"If all farmers participate by rinsing, then disposal costs will be minimized while environmental and worker protection is maximized," he adds.

Alberta Agriculture has a slide presentation on the rinsing procedure. The process starts by emptying chemical contents into the spray tank and allowing the container to drain for at least 30 seconds. Immediately after draining, rinse the empty container with water, filling it to one fifth of its volume. Shake the container and add the contents to the sprayer tank. Repeat the procedure twice and then puncture the container.

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Some farmers may have a pressure rinsing device, another approved method, says Van Teeling. Containers should be pressure rinsed for between 30 seconds and one minute. "In both cases, the active chemical goes into the spray tank and onto the fields where the chemical will break down instead of accumulating at a container disposal site."

He says it's also important to rinse the container immediately when using the chemical, otherwise residues may have a chance to dry on the sides of the container or rinsing may even be forgotten.

Contractors are currently removing empty plastic and metal containers from over 100 agricultural chemical container sites throughout the province.

Brochures on triple rinsing are available at Alberta Agriculture district offices, the Alberta Agriculture crop protection branch (427-7098), farm chemical outlets and distributors, chemical company representatives and Alberta Environment pesticide management branch offices in Edmonton, Calgary, Grande Prairie and Lethbridge.

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Contact: Casey Van Teeling
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June 4, 1990
For immediate release

Soil conservation planning on the farm

The path to success in your soil conservation efforts is through an individualized farm conservation plan says an Alberta Agriculture soil conservation specialist.

A conservation plan describes the best management of farm soils to both conserve soil and maximize long term productivity, says Tom Goddard of the department's conservation and development branch. "Farm conservation planning is the farm plan that keeps you ahead and on top. It prevents costly mistakes, alterations or duplication of conservation practices. Moreover, it assists incorporating these practices into the farm production plan."

Goddard has developed a training program for district agriculturists and agricultural fieldman to help them guide farmers in their own conservation planning. In the next few weeks, Goddard will be leading training seminars around the province centered around a farm conservation planning manual.

"The courses will be in districts where farmers have requested assistance and where municipal plans developed through the Canada-Alberta Soil Conservation Initiative (CASCI) program have targeted on-farm conservation planning," he says. CASCI funds are available to assist with the planning, he adds.

Manuals are given to each person who attends the course. The manual shows how to do both one-on-one and group planning. It also contains overheads, booklets, brochures and meeting ideas. The manual also discusses follow up on specific problems and recommendations.

"Group planning with conservation clubs may be one of the best approaches to get the planning information to producers. Six or eight farmers can get together and make maps of their own farms, document their problems, examine soil maps, and talk with specialists about alternatives. Together they can share and hunt for ideas," says Goddard.

(Cont'd)

Soil conservation planning on the farm (cont'd)

Individual farm conservation plans are detailed. An aerial photo base plus overlays with soil types, water/wet areas, eroded knolls and land use are examples of some of the information that can be mapped. Also produced are soil interpretations, field rankings (from poorest to best), crops and cropping systems, a machinery inventory, a summary of field use and long term effects on soil, residue recommendations and field records.

All these elements can make a long document, but it gives the farmer a complete situation report on his soil and water resources, he says. "The effort of developing a plan can be spread over several weeks or months. By using the plan, a farmer can make a better informed decision about his farming practices and then track the results of the changes he made. Ultimately, the best long term, sustainable practice can be identified to conserve his land and water resources," Goddard says.

For more information, farmers should contact either their local Alberta Agriculture district office or municipal agricultural fieldman.

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Contact: Tom Goddard
422-6530

June 4, 1990
For immediate release

1989 interim tripartite honey payments

The National Tripartite Honey Committee has approved interim payments on honey sold during the 1989 crop year.

"Interim payments totalling nearly $520,000 will be sent to Alberta honey producers enrolled in the National Tripartite Stabilization Program. Cheques should be processed during the second week of June," says Lloyd Andruchow, head of Alberta Agriculture's tripartite stabilization specialty crops branch.

About 230 Alberta honey producers are eligible for interim payments on honey sales reported during the first three quarters of the 1989 crop year. The three cent per pound payment applies to honey sold between June 1, 1989 and February 28, 1990.

Stabilization payments are triggered when the market price drops below the support price. Interim stabilization payments are based on 75 per cent of the difference between the support price and the estimated average market return.

The 1989 support price, the price guaranteed to producers, was 52.66 cents per pound and includes barrel and freight costs at the packer's door. "Although current honey prices are well above the support price, the large volume of honey sold at the 45 cent range in the first two quarters generated the payment," Andruchow says.

The honey tripartite program was established last year to stabilize the returns to honey producers over a 10-year period. Producers and both provincial and federal governments contribute to the stabilization fund through quarterly premium payments. Administration costs are paid by the two levels of government.

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Contact: Lloyd Andruchow
422-5879

June 4, 1990
For immediate release

Chemfallow demonstration reduces tillage

Spring and fall 2,4-D applications retained residue cover and eliminated at least one tillage operation, a Chinook Applied Research Association (CARA) project has found.

"This project points out the value of fall or early spring 2,4-D application as the first step in a reduced tillage chemical fallow system," says Vasile Klaassen, south central regional soil conservation co-ordinator. "Project results give producers several chemfallow options, but timeliness of herbicide application and selection of herbicides are important considerations.

"Reduced tillage fallow systems require a higher level of management by a producer, but the overall benefit--a reduction in erosion potential--is well worth the effort required."

The CARA project, begun in 1988, was funded by the Canada/Alberta Agreement on Soil, Water and Cropping Research and Technology Transfer (CARTT). The project was set up to demonstrate and compare methods of reduced tillage using various herbicides during the fallow year of a crop-fallow rotation. A secondary objective was to compare the effect of the various treatments on weed growth and residue cover.

Twelve combinations of herbicides and application dates were used to compare conventional and chemfallow reduced tillage treatments. Weed counts and residue surveys were taken prior to the first treatment in 1988 and again in May and June of 1989.

CARTT's objective is to develop and transfer appropriate conservation tillage and cropping technology which will minimize soil degradation and sustain economic crop production. Projects must meet this criteria to be given funding approval.

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Contact: Vasile Klaassen
948-8543

June 4, 1990
For immediate release

District video library system complete

All 66 Alberta Agriculture district offices now have their own mini-library of VHS video cassettes.

Started three years ago as a pilot project to give farm clients better access to the department's collection of films and videos, the system takes advantage of the fact 71 per cent of successful farm households have their own video cassette player says Ron Brown, head of the department's broadcast media branch.

"The district video libraries are another way of keeping producers up-to-date with industry trends using current communications technology. With this system, videos are more readily accessible to the farm community. Individual producers can take the topical videos home and review them at their leisure, and there's no charge to borrow the videos," he says.

The video library system pilot was launched in June, 1987 in 10 district offices. After a favorable response and one-year evaluation, the system started to expand. Now each district office has a minimum collection of 40 videos. Thirty of the videos are standard fare in each office and district staff chose a minimum of 10 additional titles specific to concerns in their area.

Each collection contains a wide range of subjects from soil conservation to running a home-based business. At the district office, farm families can also look for specific topics in a catalogue listing over 750 other titles available through the central film library in Edmonton. Borrowing arrangements can be made through the district office or by writing the Alberta Agriculture Film Library in Edmonton at 7000-113 Street, T6H 5T6.

The broadcast media branch produces about 25 new titles annually and also buys from the world marketplace. Only Alberta produced material is available to the district libraries. All other videos can be borrowed from the central library in Edmonton.

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Contact: Ron Brown
427-2127

June 4, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

FORMER AND SERVING DHES HONORED WITH PLAQUES

Alberta Agriculture district offices will be putting up permanent reminders of the home economists who have served in each district. Acknowledgement plaques are being presented at district offices throughout the province during the next few weeks. Last month Elizabeth Durie, district home economist in Vegreville, was presented with the first recognition plaque by Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan. Durie is currently Alberta Agriculture's longest serving district home economist. She started with the department in Two Hills in 1959. She has been at the Vegreville office since 1963. A University of Alberta graduate, Durie was born and raised in the Vegreville area. Acknowledgement plaques in district offices already list district agriculturists who have served each area. The plaques were presented in 1980 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the department's first district agriculturist. Alberta Agriculture district home economists will be celebrating their 50th anniversary in 1993. For more information about the plaque project, contact Louise Starling in Airdrie at 948-8502 or contact district offices in your area for information about local plaque presentations.

CONTROLLING BIRCH LEAF MINER

Birch leaf miner is a common pest that weakens trees and can also make them susceptible to attacks from other insects and diseases says an Alberta Agriculture specialist. Damage first appears as light green areas on leaves. The spots enlarge and become brown and papery as the larvae fed inside the leaf says Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre. Dimethoate used as a soil drench is the best control for the insect pest she says. Dig four

(Cont'd)

CONTROLLING BIRCH LEAF MINER (cont'd)

to eight shallow holes no deeper than six inches around the dripline of the tree. Apply the pesticide into the holes, fill the holes and then water the area. Read the label for the rate of application. "The amount of chemical used is based on the trunk diameter measured four feet from the ground," she says. Most damage from larvae feeding is done in July, so the pesticide should be applied about the second week of June, she advises. "If you apply it too early then the control won't be as effective." North also says it's not recommended to paint the dimethoate on the bark because it may damage the bark. The pesticide shouldn't be applied to newly transplanted birch trees, she adds. For more information, contact North in Edmonton at 472-6043.

AG CAREERS VIDEO AVAILABLE

An eight minute Employment and Immigration Canada production, "Keep Canada Growing", explores temporary, seasonal and lifetime employment opportunities in the agriculture industry. Putting people and jobs together is a vital role of the federal Agricultural Employment Service (AES). The video promotes the AES as well as agricultural employment opportunities. For lending information, write Alberta Agriculture Film Library, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5T6.

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Coming Agricultural Events

Alberta Institute of Agrologists annual conference
Lethbridge Lodge
Lethbridge ..... June 6 - 8
Pano Karkanis – 381-5892 – Lethbridge

Alberta Pork Congress
Westerner Park
Red Deer ..... June 12 - 14
Pat Kennedy/Ruth Leader – 340-5307 – Red Deer

1990 All-Canada Sheep Classic
Central Fraser Valley Exhibition Park
Clearbrook, British Columbia ..... June 14 - 16
Jan Tuytel – (604)530-0148 – Langley, British Columbia

International Agricultural Exchange Association (IAEA) reunion
Olds College
Olds ..... June 17 - 24
Bernice Luce – 783-2085 – Ponoka

1990 summer tour—Prairie Parkland chapter, Society of Range Management
Moose Mountain Provincial Park
Kenosee Lake, Saskatchewan ..... June 18 - 20
Orville Myrvang – (306)787-5272 – Regina, Saskatchewan

Airseeding '90—an international air seeder technology conference
Regina, Saskatchewan ..... June 19 - 21
Bruce Hobin – (306)966-5551 – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Engineering the Animal Environment—20 years of research
Edmonton ..... June 22
Jerry Leonard – 492-4251 – Edmonton

Bow Island Annual Bean Festival
Bow Island Ball Park
Bow Island ..... June 22 - 24
Harold Angle – 545-2419 – Bow Island

4-H Club Week
Olds College
Olds ..... July 3 - 9
Anita Anderson – 427-2541 – Edmonton

Canadian Hereford Association's Centennial Celebrations
Port O'Call Inn
Calgary ..... July 3 - 5
Bev Leavitt – 227-5246 – Innisfail

Meeting Consumer Demands in the 1990s (Beef business seminar)
Highwood Livestock Auction
Highwood ..... July 4
Keith Coates – 275-2662 – Calgary

University of Alberta ranch day
University of Alberta Ranch
Kinsella ..... July 5
Mac Makarechian – 492-1316 or Mick Price – 492-3235 – Edmonton

Breton Plots field day
Breton Plots
Breton ..... July 6
J. A. Robertson – 492-3242 – Edmonton

Calgary Stampede International Stock Show
Stampede Park
Calgary ..... July 6 - 15
Don Stewart – 261-0162 – Calgary

Alberta Pre-Conference Tour (World Sugar Farmers' Conference)
Southern Alberta ..... July 1 - 8
Paul Thibodou – 327-3242 – Lethbridge

4th World Sugar Farmers' Conference
Westin Hotel
Winnipeg, Manitoba ..... July 8 - 13
Hikla Hay – (204)888-1632 – Winnipeg, Manitoba

Crop Protection Training
Olds College
Olds ..... July 9 - 11
Mike Dolinski – 427-7098 – Edmonton

Confederacion Interamericana de Ganaderos (CIAGA)
Hosted by Alberta Canada All Breeds Association (ACABA)
Convention Centre
Calgary ..... July 13 - 17
Post conference tour ..... July 18 - 26
Norma Dunn – 228-3467 – Calgary

Hort Week
Olds College
Olds..... July 15 - 20
Extension Services – 556-8344 – Olds

West National Dairy Goat Show and Sale
Westerner Exposition
Red Deer..... July 16 - 17
Douglas Dunn – 489-0707 – Edmonton

1990 Alberta Agricultural Service Board Tour
Mountie Park
Westlock..... July 16 - 19
Dennis Mueller – 349-3346 – Westlock

Irrigation research and development in the 1990's—a working conference
Lethbridge ..... July 17 - 20
Jim Bryne – 329-2225 – Lethbridge

Canadian Center for Holistic Resource Management Short Courses
Lakeland College
Lloydminster..... July 17 - 19
Mary Holtman – 223-4333 – Taber; Dennis or Jean Wobeser – 875-4418 or 875-3011 – Lloydminster

Alberta Potato Industry Field Day
Taber area..... July 18
Janice Deremiens – 291-2430 – Calgary

75th anniversary University of Alberta Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry
University of Alberta
Edmonton..... July 19 - 21
Helen Steinke – 492-4931 – Edmonton

Canadian Center for Holistic Resource Management Annual Meeting
Lakeland College
Lloydminster..... July 20 - 21
Mary Holtman – 223-4333 – Taber; Dennis or Jean Wobeser – 875-4418 or 875-3011 – Lloydminster

70th annual Agricultural Institute of Canada conference
Penticton Convention Centre
Penticton, British Columbia ..... July 22 - 26
Bill Molyneux – (604)494-7711 – Penticton, British Columbia

Canadian Soil Science Society Meetings
Penticton Convention Centre
Penticton, British Columbia. ..... July 22 - 26
Gerry Neilsen – (604)494-7711 – Summerland, British Columbia

Alberta Women's Week (60th anniversary)
Olds College
Olds..... July 23 - 26
Colleen Pierce – 623-5218 – Lac La Biche; Karen Goad – 227-6565 – Innisfail

5th annual U of S Hort Week
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan..... July 23 - 27
Sara Williams – (306)966-5592 – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Christian Farmers Federation (Alberta) Field Day
Neerlandia..... July 24
Dave Tuininga – 674-5966 – Neerlandia
(Please call ahead to confirm)

Alberta Dairy Congress
Leduc Black Gold Centre
Leduc ..... July 24 - 25
Iris Yanish – 986-8108 – Leduc

CARA/Ag Service Board Summer Tour
Special Area No. 4 ..... July 25
Dianne Westerlund – 664-3777 – Oyen

Western Canada Fertilizer Association annual meeting and convention
Empress Hotel/Victoria Conference Centre
Victoria, British Columbia .....August 1 - 3
Don McLean – (604)584-2270 – Surrey, British Columbia

Bonanza '90—Canadian Junior Hereford Association annual show
Olds College
Olds.....August 1 - 5
Joy Gregory – 275-2662 – Calgary

Crops Field Day
Alberta Environmental Centre
Vegreville .....August 2
Jay Woosaree or Mark Jeffers – 632-6761 – Vegreville

Agriculture and Rural Restructuring: A comparative assessment of Canada, the United States and Europe
University of British Columbia
Vancouver .....August 3 - 4
Ray Bollman – (613)951-3747 – Ottawa, Ontario

Canadian Agricultural Economic and Farm Management Society, annual conference
University of British Columbia
Vancouver .....August 5 - 8
Ray Bollman – (613)951-3747 – Ottawa, Ontario

Summer Agricultural Educational Institute
Lethbridge Community College
Lethbridge .....August 7 - 17
Betty Gabert – 427-2402 – Edmonton

Alberta Soils Tour
Southern Alberta (Lethbridge is
tour start and finish).....August 15 - 16
Anne Naeth – 492-6466 – Edmonton;
Barry Adams – 381-5486 or Craig Wood – 382-3100 – Lethbridge

Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center Field Day
Brooks .....August 24
Judy Butt or Ron Howard – 362-3391 – Brooks

Canada/U.S. Symposium on Climatic Change and Variability on the Great Plains
Westin Hotel
Calgary..... September 11 - 13
Tim Goos – 495-3143 – Edmonton

15th annual Poultry Servicemen's Workshop
Chateau Lake Louise
Lake Louise.....October 2 - 4
Rod Chernos – 948-8533 – Airdrie

23rd International Dairy Congress
Montreal, Quebec.....October 7 - 12
Richard Stern – (613)238-4116 – Ottawa, Ontario

Rural Canada: Economic and Social Reality Conference
R.H. Coates Building, Tunney's Pasture
Ottawa, Ontario ..... October 17 - 19
Ray Bollman – (613)952-3747 or Judy Buehler – (613)951-3779 – Ottawa, Ontario

National Outstanding Young Farmers awards
Stampede Park
Calgary.....October 18 - 22
Don Stewart – 261-0162 – Calgary

Canadian Bankers' Association Agricultural Finance Conference
Auberge de Seigneurs
St. Hyacinthe, Quebec .....October 28 - 31
Cathy Frederickson – (416)362-6092 – Toronto, Ontario

Annual meeting Prairie Chapter International Society of Arboriculture
Mayfair Hotel
Edmonton..... November 1 - 3
Brendan Casement – 472-6043 – Edmonton

Alberta Horticultural Congress and Trade Show
Calgary Convention Centre
Calgary..... November 1 - 4
Simone Demers Collins – 427-7366 – Edmonton

Alberta Potato Marketing Board Annual Conference
Lethbridge ..... November 15 - 17
Jan Brown – 291-2430 – Calgary

Marketing to the Environment (a seminar)
Delta Bow Valley Inn
Calgary..... November 23
Eileen Grant - 266-0955 - Calgary

National awards program Canadian Agri-Marketing Association
Calgary Convention Centre
Calgary..... November 23
Eileen Grant – 266-0995 – Calgary

Landscape Alberta Nursery Trades Association annual meeting, convention and trade show
Banff Springs Hotel
Banff.....November 28 - December 1
Judy Dreisig – 489-1991 – Edmonton

Canadian Forage Council conference and annual meeting
Fantasyland Hotel, West Edmonton Mall
Edmonton.....November 29 - December 1
Jerry Sykes – 623-5218 – Lac La Biche

Alberta provincial poultry and rabbit show
Stampede Park
Calgary..... December 1 - 2
Don Stewart – 261-0162 – Calgary

Coming agricultural events

- Do you know of any provincial (Alberta), national or international agricultural meetings, conferences or conventions coming in **October, November, December or In 1991**?Are there any events omitted in the attached list?

- Please state the name of the event.

- What are the dates?

- Where is the event being held? Include city or town; hotel and convention centre if known.

- Please give the name, city or town, and phone number of a contact person for each event listed.

- This form has been completed by (organization):

Please return this form by August 24, 1990 to:
Agri-News Editor
Information Services Division
J.G. O'Donoghue Building
7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta
T6H 5T6

(Coming Agricultural Events is published four times a year in Agri-News.
The next edition will be printed September 3, 1990)

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

JUN 27 1990

June 11, 1990

For immediate release

This Week

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

June 11, 1990
For immediate release

Farm income assistance details announced

Alberta Agriculture Minister Ernie Isley and Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan have released implementation details for the recently announced $100 million Canada/Alberta farm income assistance package.

The package, with $89 million from the federal government and a provincial government $11 million contribution in addition to its 1990/91 budget enhancements to agriculture, is designed to offset farm income losses for 1990.

"Alberta's farming community has been hit hard by conditions beyond their control: poor weather, high input costs and low world grain prices caused by the ongoing trade war between the European Community and the United States. This assistance is being provided to help compensate for the sharp decline in farm income caused by these problems," says Isley.

McClellan notes the Alberta government has already provided significant new support to farm income, including $23.4 million in assistance to northern Alberta farmers, $20.6 million in new credit assistance and $35.1 million towards increased crop insurance costs. In addition, Alberta was the first province to reach an agreement with the federal government regarding farm income assistance for 1990. "With the income support the Alberta government is already providing to producers, and with our fast start on the federal/provincial initiative, we are providing timely and effective assistance to the province's farm families."

The assistance package will have two components. First, all farmers in the province will be eligible for a payment of $4.10 per acre on all improved seeded acres, including forage, in 1989. Payments won't be made on acres that were in summerfallow. Also excluded are forage acres on which payment has already been made through the Northwest Alberta Disaster Assistance Program.

(Cont'd)

Second, southeastern farmers in the Multi-Year Disaster Benefit (MYDA) area that have suffered consecutive drought years significantly reducing agricultural production, have been targeted for an additional payment of $3 per acre, excluding summerfallow and irrigated land. To be eligible for this extra payment, producers must farm in Special Areas 2, 3 and 4, the County of Paintearth or the Municipal Districts of Cypress, Acadia and Provost.

Program application forms should be available at all Alberta Agriculture district offices and participating country elevators by mid-June. "Every attempt has been made to ensure that the application process has been kept simple and that the forms will be easy to complete," says McClellan.

It is hoped application processing will also start in mid-June and cheques will be mailed to farmers as soon as possible. Farmers will receive an initial payment of 85 per cent of their claim. After all applicants have received their initial payments, remaining funds will be distributed.

To speed up the payment process, a distribution system has been set up using existing provincial government agencies. The Crow Benefit Offset Program office in Edmonton will process claims, while Alberta Treasury will issue cheques. The application deadline is August 31, 1990.

"We're very pleased to be in a position to get this assistance out to farmers right away. It's vital that producers receive this money as quickly as possible to help with spring start-up costs," says Isley.

Concluding their announcement, the ministers emphasized work will continue to resolve the issues underlying the reduction in Alberta farm income. "The fundamental problem that makes this federal/provincial assistance effort necessary is, of course, the international trade situation. Alberta will continue to support the federal government's efforts to negotiate a rapid end to the agricultural trade wars," says Isley.

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Contact: Doug Radke 427-1957
Brad Klak 427-2137
Louise Riopel 422-9156

June 11, 1990
For immediate release

Provincial spring soil moisture picture

Soil moisture conditions varied widely across the province this spring says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

Soils were sampled between April 9 and May 8. Those sample results plus rainfall data and discussions with Alberta agriculture regional and district staff were used to determine soil moisture conditions and a provincial soil moisture map says Al Howard, soil moisture specialist in Lethbridge. (Note: See attached map)

Precipitation since the fall of 1989 has made the overall soil moisture picture better, he says. Increases in soil moisture are most evident in the extreme south, the north central region and the south Peace region. "The total area in the low soil moisture category occupies nine per cent less area than on May 1 of last year. As well, the high category is up by 11 per cent."

Drier areas in 1990 include an area east of High Level, the Vulcan area and the Wetaskiwin-Sedgewick-Stettler area. "The dry zone is primarily confined to southeastern Alberta this year, although it has moved west to Calgary and further south it has retreated toward Medicine Hat."

Soil moisture levels are high through much of the west central part of the province, the foothills, the Cardston-Warner area in the extreme south west and the north central are from Cold Lake through to and including much of the Peace River region. High soil moisture conditions also exist east of Edmonton from Sherwood Park to Vegreville.

Soil moisture levels are low in an area bordered approximately by Wainwright, Calgary, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat. "The driest soils were found in the Vulcan area and in a zone along the Saskatchewan border from Consort south through Oyen and Acadia Valley to the South Saskatchewan River," Howard says.

(Cont'd)

Provincial spring soil moisture picture (cont'd)

Low soil moisture levels were also found in an area east of High Level, the Westlock area, an area from Wetaskiwin to Sedgewick and south to Stettler and an area extending north from Marwayne to Lac La Biche. "All of these areas are remainders of much larger dry areas that were evident last fall. Winter and spring precipitation reduced their size and March and April snowstorms were particularly beneficial in improving soil moisture levels south of Lethbridge," he says.

"Scattered showers during May continually added to the variability of soil moisture conditions in most of the province," he adds.

Soils were sampled with a king tube to at least a 90 cm depth. The moisture category was determined by the depth of moist soil. The categories are for medium textured soils in a level landscape and are designed as a recropping guide.

For more information, contact Howard in Lethbridge at 381-5861, one of the six regional crop production specialists or a local Alberta Agriculture district agriculturist.

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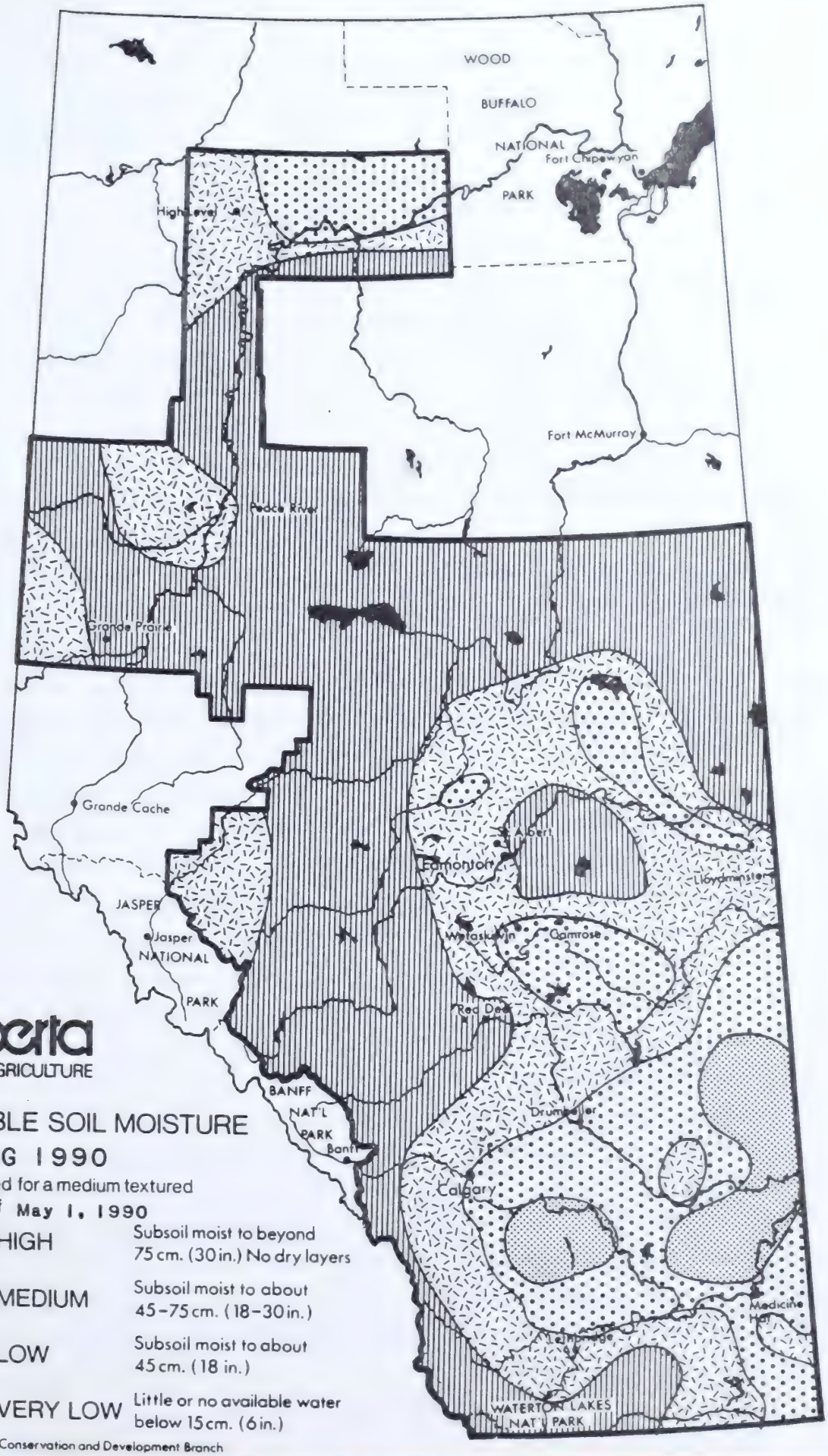
Contact: Al Howard
381-5861


WOOD
BUFFALO
NATIONAL
PARK
Fort Chipewyan
High Level
Peace River
Fort McMurray
Grande Prairie
Grande Cache
JASPER
Jasper
NATIONAL
PARK
Alberta
AGRICULTURE
STUBBLE SOIL MOISTURE
SPRING 1990
Estimated for a medium textured
soil as of May 1, 1990
HIGH
Subsoil moist to beyond
75 cm. (30 in.) No dry layers
MEDIUM
Subsoil moist to about
45–75 cm. (18–30 in.)
LOW
Subsoil moist to about
45 cm. (18 in.)
VERY LOW
Little or no available water
below 15 cm. (6 in.)
Compiled by Conservation and Development Branch
Edmonton
Albert
Lloydminster
Wetaskiwin
Camrose
Red Deer
BANFF
NAT'L
PARK
Banff
Drumheller
Calgary
Medicine
WATERTON LAKES
NAT'L PARK

June 11, 1990
For immediate release

"Mad cow disease" not present in North America

Concerns about "mad cow disease" in Great Britain shouldn't prevent Canadians from eating beef and enjoying the barbecue season this summer says an Alberta Agriculture beef cattle veterinarian.

"In Canada we've recently heard a lot about 'mad cow disease' in England. I hope to dispel the faulty perception that Canadian beef or lamb is unsafe in some way," says Casey Schipper of the health management branch. "This brain disease of cattle, also called Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), is neither present in Canada nor the United States. Therefore, the beef consuming public need not have any worries or fears about the safety and/or the quality of North American beef."

The outbreak of BSE in England had a common source, he says, feed supplements containing meat meal derived from scrapie-infected sheep offal. Scrapie is a viral disease of sheep and offal is parts from a carcass used for animal feed.

A number of factors together contributed to the outbreak of BSE in Britain, says Schipper. A 16 per cent increase in the sheep population resulted in a proportionally larger number of scrapie-infected flocks. In turn, rendering plants began to receive more offal from slaughtered sheep infected with scrapie. New techniques in rendering permitted lower processing temperatures which likely contributed to the survival of the scrapie agent in the rendered feed. As well, to increase milk production the British Government provided financial incentives for producers to retain and feed replacement calves. Large amounts of rendered products of sheep origin were incorporated into dairy calf rations. Due to the slow, progressive nature of the disease, it took four years for the first case of the BSE disease to develop in cattle.

"In Canada, there isn't a similar combination of risk factors. Our sheep population is low and widely dispersed. Scrapie is rare here, and as a reportable disease under federal laws, infected flocks are destroyed.

(Cont'd)

"Nor is feeding meat meal to cattle a common practice in Canada, and that's how the disease was transferred from sheep to cattle in Britain," he adds.

Schipper also says federal government regulations make the disease highly unlikely here. Rendering plants, particularly those in Western Canada, are modern state-of-the-art establishments. Processing technology and product quality controls are under federal government supervision. Live cattle, embryos, hides and meat product imports from Europe are strictly controlled. Agriculture Canada also has recently announced a ban on beef cattle imports from England. As well, scientists at provincial and federal animal health laboratories are constantly on the lookout for the emergence of new and unusual livestock diseases.

Schipper says the British public and press over-reacted to the potential human danger. "The scientific facts stand in sharp contrast to the emotional reaction of some reporters and members of the public in England. There has been no recorded evidence in Britain that the agents which cause scrapie in sheep or BSE in cattle can cause disease in humans. Therefore, the chance of humans becoming infected in Canada is negligible."

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Contact: Casey Schipper
436-9343

June 11, 1990
For immediate release

New salinity control method tried

A producer organization has received funding from the Canada-Alberta Soil Conservation Initiative (CASCI) to demonstrate a new salinity control technique.

Controlling soil salinity involves controlling groundwater recharge and eventual lowering the water table in a salt discharge area. One practical way to do this is growing deep rooted, high moisture use forage crops in strategic locations in and around the salt affected areas. Alfalfa has been used successfully on areas upslope from a seep, but few forages are capable of germinating in the harsh conditions of a saline seep.

The new technique to combat this problem is called sprigging. It involves transplanting sections of rhizomes (sprigs), the long lateral root stalks of established forages.

"The process has proven itself an effective way of establishing forages in areas where a seed is unable to germinate and produce a plant," says Rob Dunn, Alberta Agriculture southern soil conservation co-ordinator. "It works because the sprig has a much better chance of establishing itself compared to a germinating seed."

The Dryland Salinity Control Association (DSCA) will be demonstrating sprigging across the province. "The DSCA hopes their program will introduce an important new technology for dryland salinity control," says Craig Wood, Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) area conservationist in Lethbridge.

With CASCI funds, the association has purchased a sprig harvester and planter. The funds will help launch a three year demonstration program. In the first year, four sites in southern Alberta and two sites in the central region of the province will be completed, says Dunn.

(Cont'd)

New salinity control method tried (cont'd)

The main thrust of the project is transplanting the sprigs from established forage sites to saline areas. But, because established forages suitable for sprigging are relatively scarce, the DSCA's efforts will include setting up nurse stocks of appropriate forage grasses in strategic areas across the province. Each acre of nurse forage produces enough sprigs to plant about 15 acres.

Any perennial grass that produces rhizomes and has some salt tolerance can be used for sprigging. Researchers in Montana found creeping foxtail and beardless wild rye are well suited to sprigging. These, and other grasses, will be tested in a wide range of Alberta conditions.

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Contact: Rob Dunn
381-5130

Craig Wood
382-3100

June 11, 1990
For immediate release

Earlier better for castration, dehorning

Castration and dehorning should be done early, so cattle can recover faster and so there's less risk of losses at the feedlot says an Alberta Agriculture livestock specialist.

Rob Hand, northwest regional livestock specialist, worked with the North West Cattle Feeders on a study to determine the effects of late castration and dehorning on cattle in feedlots. The Farming for the Future supported project was run at seven member feedlots north and west of Edmonton in 1988 and 1989.

In the 92-day (average) period after either or both procedures, the trials found there was an eight per cent weight gain loss in dehorned animals, a five per cent reduction in castrated animals and a 14 per cent drop in animals that had both procedures.

"Animals seem to recover faster from castration than dehorning, but there's an additive effect of the stresses if the animal is both dehorned and castrated.

"The drops in gain are fairly serious for the operator who is trying to run his business at a profit," says Hand.

Dehorning prevents injury particularly bruising or poking eyes. It also increases feed bunk space and makes for less disturbed feeding. Castrated steers are less aggressive in the pen, stay on feed better, are easier to feed to finish weight and have less dark cutting meat.

The study also showed a few cents per pound discount was justifiable on horned or intact feeders, Hand says. "With horns, the justifiable discount is three cents per pound. If castration was necessary, the discount is two cents per pound and if the animal needed both, a discount of five cents per pound.

"This is based only on production losses. It doesn't include risk of death or the labor involved in dehorning and castration," says Hand.

(Cont'd)

Earlier better for castration, dehorning (cont'd)

Hand recommends cattle be castrated and dehorned before they reach 60 days of age. "Before weaning is the obvious time, because it's adding value to your calf. As well, young animals recover faster from either operation. They're easier to hold then, so it's easier for the operator to do the procedure. And, it's also probably less painful for the animal at a younger age than later, such as at the feedlot."

The easiest way to avoid horned cattle is to have a polled bull, he says. If not, a caustic paste can be used on the horns for the first seven days after birth. Other methods of dehorning include an electric dehorner, gougers, and a specialized hot iron brand.

Castration requires removing the testicles, either by knife or by emasculator. "Producers can do this themselves, after their veterinarian shows them how."

For more information on the study, contact Hand in Barrhead at 674-8248.

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Contact: Rob Hand
674-8248

June 11, 1990
For immediate release

Canola and reduced till CARTT project

A project testing and demonstrating techniques to produce canola with less tillage, has received funding from the Canada/Alberta Agreement on Soil, Water and Cropping Research and Technology Transfer (CARTT).

The Canola Council of Canada proposed the two-year project. "Conventional wisdom says that successful canola production requires preparation of a firm, relatively residue free seed bed," says Wilf Cody, Alberta Agriculture northwest regional soil conservation co-ordinator. "Preferred weed control methods often involve incorporation of pre-emergence herbicides. The intensity of cultivation required to accomplish seed bed preparation and herbicide incorporation frequently leaves the soil in an erosion prone condition," he adds.

The project has two sites on different soil types. A Calmar site has deep black soil and the second, a site near Strome, is on a thin black soil. Last year the Calmar site was seeded and both sites were seeded in mid-May this year. Six tillage treatments will be used ranging through more intensive than normal to normal tillage, reduced tillage, minimum to no tillage and no tillage with Triazine application.

"Initial results at the Calmar site last year showed essentially no yield differences between treatments, except for one in which a herbicide application problem resulted in significantly lower yields. If the initial results are confirmed, canola production practices with less potential for soil degradation may become more commonplace," says Cody.

CARTT's objective is to develop and transfer appropriate conservation tillage and cropping technology which will minimize soil degradation and sustain economic crop production. Projects must meet this criteria to be given funding approval.

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Contact: Wilf Cody
679-8264

June 11, 1990
For immediate release

Alberta Agriculture Appointments

NEW DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST IN HIGH PRAIRIE

Suzanne Randall is High Prairie's new Alberta Agriculture district home economist. After graduating from the University of Alberta in 1986 with a BSc in home economics, she began her career as a home economist at Alberta Hospital Ponoka teaching basic life skills to psychiatric patients before they were discharged. Randall was born and raised on a mixed farm in the Vimy area north of Edmonton where her parents still farm. As a teen and young adult, she was heavily involved with the 4-H movement, which she says gives her insight in part of her new duties as home economist working with area 4-H clubs. As district home economist, Randall offers assistance to farm families in farm financial management, consumer skills, food and nutrition, 4-H and leadership development, clothing and textiles and farm housing, as well as promoting Alberta food products. "I'm enthusiastic about the opportunity to work with farm families and rural community organizations in the High Prairie area," she says. Randall can be contacted at 523-6500 in High Prairie.

SUZANNE RANDALL

NEW DRYLAND SOIL SALINITY SPECIALIST IN LETHBRIDGE

Jim Miller has joined Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch as a dryland soil salinity specialist. Hired through the Canada/Alberta Soil Conservation Initiative (CASCI), Miller's work will focus on applied research on dryland salinity, its control and related hydrogeology. Miller's applied research will focus on three

(Cont'd)

NEW DRYLAND SOIL SALINITY SPECIALIST IN LETHBRIDGE (cont'd)
major projects. One involves the hydrology of soil salinization at a saline seep near Crossfield and determining the contribution of surface water to soil salinization. The second project examines rooting depth and water use of ten different alfalfa varieties. Alfalfa is already recommended to control saline seeps because of its deep rooting ability. "We want to determine from this study which alfalfa variety is best to recommend to farmers as a vegetative control for soil salinity," he says. The third project involves shallow groundwater quality of saline seeps in the County of Warner. Miller will also provide soil and hydrogeological expertise to assist with the Dryland Salinity Investigation Service (DSIS). Miller received his undergraduate and master of science degrees in soil science from the University of Saskatchewan. In 1989, he completed a PhD in soil science at the University of Alberta. Miller hails from Swift Current, Saskatchewan. He can be contacted in Lethbridge at 381-5874.

June 11, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

VENDOR MORTGAGE PLAN UNDERWAY

Alberta farm families can now make applications for the new vendor mortgage financing plan offered by the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC). The program started operation on June 1. Through the plan, ADC guarantees a loan for the purchase of a farm. The loan is guaranteed to the seller, who carries the mortgage for the purchaser. ADC takes care of the credit assessment, collection and some of the legal work involved in the transaction. The plan is geared to farm operators facing retirement and is ideal for family transfers. However, sellers and purchasers using the Vendor Mortgage Plan need not be related. One of the plan's highlights is the low interest rates available to borrowers. The vendor and borrowers set the interest rate, as long as it doesn't exceed ADC's preferred lending rate. Borrowers who qualify for the ADC's Beginning Farmer Program also receive an interest rate reduction of up to three per cent for the first five years of their loan. Sellers can receive an attractive rate of return for retaining their investment in the farm. Through the plan's provisions, they'll receive a return comparable to a five-year Guaranteed Investment Certificate (GIC). ADC loans officers across the province can advise farmers about the plan. Brochures are available at Alberta Agriculture district offices, ADC offices and banks. For more information, contact Robert Splane, ADC president and managing director, at 679-1302 in Camrose.

SEED AND GRAIN SUMMER WORKSHOPS AND FIELD TRIPS

Olds College, in conjunction with the seed and grain industry, is offering a series of workshops and working field trips for farmers, seed growers, agricultural fieldmen, elevator and farm supply managers and others with an interest in the seed and grain industries. "All are new, first time offerings," says Jennifer O'Halloran, seed and grain program

(Cont'd)

SEED AND GRAIN SUMMER WORKSHOPS AND FIELD TRIPS (cont'd)

manager at Olds College. Canola grading is offered June 27, cleaning with gravities, July 3 and 4 or July 5 and 6, field inspection on July 31, field assessment of canola on August 2 and field assessment of barley on August 16. In canola grading, participants will practice seed separations after learning about what weeds can't be separated out of canola and telling the difference between various oilseeds and weeds. In the two-day cleaning with gravities workshop, participants learn how to set gravity tables, see how gravity will fit into their operation and the principles of gravity separation. The field inspection illustrates the principles of crop inspection in wheat and barley. Concentration on production of canola with evaluating conditions in a field is the aim in field assessment of canola. The barley field assessment working field trip will concentrate on barley for malt. Due to the hands on nature of the program, registration is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis. Costs of the workshops and field trips include reference material, workbooks, field trip transportation and refreshments. For more information, contact O'Halloran in Olds at 556-8344.

TOUR BRINGS WORLD SUGAR FARMERS TO ALBERTA

A pre-conference tour will bring delegates to the 4th annual World Sugar Farmers Conference to Alberta from July 1 through 8. Delegates will tour irrigated sugar beet operations in the Lethbridge area and also see the Alberta Rocky Mountains and attend the Calgary Stampede. The conference is in Winnipeg July 8 through 13. Sugar cane and beet farmers are represented in the global organization. For more information on the Alberta tour, contact Paul Thibodou, Alberta Sugar Beet Growers' Marketing Board, in Lethbridge at 327-3242.

BEEF SEMINAR TARGETS CONSUMER DEMANDS

The Alberta Hereford Association is offering a one-day beef seminar July 4 in Highwood. The seminar's theme is meeting consumer demands in the 1990s and will address each facet of the beef industry and its

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BEEF SEMINAR TARGETS CONSUMER DEMANDS (cont'd)

important to future consumer demands. Expert speakers include Agriculture Canada researchers Steven Jones and Dave Bailey, Carolyn McDonnell, of the Beef Information Centre, and two Americans, Russell Cross, of Texas A&M, and Bob Bellows, a U.S. agriculture department researcher. Packing and feedlot representatives and commercial cow/calf producers will evaluate types of cattle. A selected group of yearling feeder cattle will be assessed and commercial cattlemen will use a group of bulls to demonstrate their selection criteria. For more information, contact Keith Coates, Canadian Hereford Association field officer, at 275-2662 in Calgary.

IRRIGATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Irrigation research and development in the 1990s will take the spotlight at a working conference July 17 through 20 in Lethbridge. IRDC-90 is for all people involved in irrigation. Its intent is to develop a ten year plan for irrigation research and development with an emphasis on the key issues the irrigation community feels should be given priority. The conference will feature a number of internationally renowned keynote speakers during both plenary and technical sessions. Over 50 abstracts have been accepted for presentation during the six concurrent technical sessions on July 17 and 18. The papers include a cross section of scientists from all disciplines and geographic areas in North America. The final program may feature as many as 80 papers. Technical sessions have been divided into on-farm irrigation, irrigation district/system management, irrigation as an agricultural strategy, irrigated soils, irrigation and the environment and climate modelling and change. Tours will be available for conference observers not taking part in the working groups. For more information about the conference, contact the University of Lethbridge conference services, 4401 University Drive Lethbridge, T1K 3M4, call 329-2244 or FAX 329-2022.

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SUMMER RANGE MANAGEMENT TOUR NEAR SUNDRE

The Society of Range Management (SRM) is holding a summer tour near Sundre July 19 through 21. The tour is at Bearberry west of Sundre with tour headquarters at the Bearberry campsite and hall (17 miles west of Sundre on secondary highway 584). A history and background of the area will start activities on the first evening as well as a video of the Red Deer River Ranch. The following day (July 20), a bus tour will take participants to examples of timber and grazing management; the Pokars' ranch, showing recreation and livestock production; the Bearberry gas plant; and, the Neilson grazing lease to see grazing and wildlife habitat and aspen used for making chopsticks. A barbecue and evening program with Brin Theissen, a cowboy poet from Sundre, conclude the day's activities. The tour concludes with a plant identification contest and a society (international mountain section) business meeting. The SRM's objective is to provide a forum for ranchers, range manager and other interested people to review and discuss range management practices. The Society welcomes members and interested non-members to attend the Bearberry tour. For more information, contact Bob Wroe in Lacombe at 782-4641.

AGRI-NEWS

June 18, 1990

For immediate release

CANADIANA

JUN 26 1990

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

June 18, 1990
For immediate release

Agriculture important, but there's more to irrigation

Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan reinforced a message Alberta agrologists heard throughout their recent annual convention: there's more to irrigation than agriculture.

Only four per cent of Alberta's cultivated acres are irrigated, but those acres--about 1.3 million--account for at least 15 per cent of total provincial production, McClellan told the 44th annual meeting of the Alberta Institute of Agrologists in Lethbridge. Both crop production and diversity of crops grown on those acres are impressive, she says, but just as significant are the other benefits of irrigation.

In particular, she singled out how irrigation has contributed to development of Alberta's secondary food processing industry. "Our government finds it totally unacceptable to ship all of our raw products out of this province and the jobs that go with them. We believe those jobs should be here and the processing should occur here."

"Irrigation and the ability to grow the crops on irrigated land has contributed very significantly to that secondary processing industry," she added. She backed up her statement with 1989 cash receipt statistics. For the first time, food and beverage processing valued at $4.6 billion edged out primary production's $4.4 billion.

McClellan noted, as the conference's theme pointed out, other sectors benefit from irrigation works. Nearly 50 municipalities are served by irrigation water. Industrial development from food processing to the oil industry benefit from the availability of water through irrigation. Fish and wildlife, tourism and recreation are also beneficiaries of irrigation, she added. Six provincial parks in southern Alberta are on irrigation works, recreational and 21 commercial fisheries are supported on irrigation reservoirs, and co-operative wetlands and wildlife projects have been developed on or near irrigation waters.

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McClellan noted the lack of natural recreational water bodies in southeastern Alberta. Lakes and reservoirs created by irrigation works benefit more than rural residents, she said. "I'm a farmer and know that it's not the farmer who uses them the most.

"Irrigation is a benefit to all of us in Alberta whether we live in the northwest, northeast, central, south, southeast," she concluded.

Earlier in the day conference speakers spoke in more detail about agricultural and other benefits from irrigation. Jim Weber, manager of the Eastern Irrigation District, likened irrigation infrastructure to a basic utility. An outline of current capital water projects and potential projects was provided by Al McPhail, president of W-E-R Engineering. McPhail noted all future development would be more rigorous and time consuming environmental assessment.

Economist Dale Russell, of UMA Engineering in Lethbridge, said primary benefits from irrigation include both agriculture and recreation/tourism and secondary impacts of irrigation go even further in the economy. He discussed forward linkages or economic multipliers. Primary agricultural activity has a 1.9 multiplier effect in the economy, he said, while the basic manufacturing multiplier is 3.3. Different types of manufacturing have more specific multipliers, he said and cited meat processing's 9.7.

For Garnet Altwauser, irrigation water is essential for his cattle feeding and meat processing business in Brooks. The president of Lakeside Farm Industries says cattle processing has a high water demand. Upwards of 500 gallons per head slaughtered is used for everything from washing carcasses to cleaning knives and from misting coolers to curing hides in brine. In the feedlot, animals drink about 12 gallons per day. In total the business, which he calls "a pig for water", uses about a million gallons of water every day.

Altwauser, who discussed industrial development as influenced by irrigation, said every day 90 semi-trailer loads of something comes and goes from the business. "There's a lot of spin-off activity to putting barley through cattle." Lakeside currently employs 400 people and will expand by 200 more jobs.

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Agriculture important, but there's more to irrigation (cont'd)

Without supplemental water, he said, Brooks would do well to support one-third of its current 9,500 population. "Irrigation will continue to be one of the major catalysts in developing southern Alberta," he concluded.

Ducks Unlimited biologist Kim Schmitt pointed out habitat development in southern Alberta paralleled irrigation development. An abundance of diverse wildlife fueled tourism in the 1920s through 1960s. In the 20 years between 1960 and 1980, as agricultural technologies changed and economics squeezed land owners, the habitat base decreased.

Neither organization or funding was in place to stop habitat loss, Schmitt said, but that situation has changed. Now, integration and multiple use planning has secured world class fish and wildlife habitat and southern Alberta's quality of life and environment. Currently, one-third of irrigation wetland have integration agreements and progress is being made on other areas. Schmitt credited a good working relationship and respect for each other's goals between the irrigation districts and Ducks Unlimited.

Economic diversification, particularly through tourism and recreation opportunities, were highlighted by Gillian Nish, president of a Lethbridge based tourism company, Execuserv Plus. Irrigation is a catalyst to recreational and tourism planning, part of regional development plans, critical in outdoor recreation from picnicking to wind surfing and a key part of Alberta reaching its tourism potential, she said. Nish added recreational, historical and wildlife resources available from irrigation are all important in developing tourism throughout southern irrigated region.

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Contact: Louise Riopel
422-9156

June 18, 1990
For immediate release

Unusual weather during May

May, 1990 was full of unusual weather says Alberta Agriculture's weather resource specialist.

"Just one example was May 25. A widespread dust storm blew across central and eastern Alberta at the same time as parts of southwestern Alberta experienced flooding," says Peter Dzikowski, of the conservation and development branch.

"The fact May was a wet month was helpful to most farmers, although there was flooding in some areas," he adds. The southern Peace region and the foothills reported May precipitation totals 150 to 200 per cent of the monthly normal. Olds recorded 124 mm of rain, 222 per cent of their long term May average. Cardston was another wet spot. Its 127.1 mm of rain was 186 per cent of normal May rainfall.

Rainfall amounts dropped off quickly in areas east of the foothills. Central and northern Peace areas, central Alberta and southeastern Alberta reported near normal May rainfall totals ranging between 30 and 60 mm.

East central and northeastern Alberta were quite dry with rainfall totals of 20 mm or less. "Mostly totals were less than half the normal value for May. Coronation reported 12.4 mm, 34 per cent of normal May rainfall," he says.

Wet and cool May weather made it difficult to complete seeding in some areas, he says. "However, soil moisture reserves were topped up in areas that got above normal rainfall, while eastern parts of the province would benefit from more rain."

Temperature patterns ranged from below to above normal through the month. The month began with above normal temperatures, followed by temperatures well below normal through mid-month and ended with seasonal temperature values. Average temperatures for May were about one degree Celsius above normal in the Peace River region, near normal in central Alberta and .5 to one degree below normal in southern Alberta.

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Contact: Peter Dzikowski
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June 18, 1990
For immediate release

Conservation camp celebrates 25 years

Alberta's 4-H Conservation Camp will celebrate its 25th anniversary this summer with some very special events.

To commemorate 25 years of sponsoring the camp, Alberta Power and TransAlta Utilities have set aside funds to build an environmental centre at the Battle Lake provincial 4-H centre. "The new building will personify the camp's theme and highlight environmental awareness for everyone who comes to Battle Lake," says Henry Wiegman, provincial 4-H agricultural specialist.

Designed to complement and emphasize existing on-site environmental programs, the centre will also assist environmental activities during 4-H camps and for any other group using the Battle Lake facility. Currently, there is a system of nature trails and an environmental awareness teaching resource program. Group leaders can use both for environment related activities. "The centre will be a starting point, and a focal point, for environmental activities," he says.

About half of the $40,000 cost of the centre is in place and a 25th anniversary committee will be contacting conservation camp alumni to solicit donations, says Wiegman.

"Over 1,400 4-H members have attended the camp through the years. We will be writing them to let them know about the anniversary and asking them to contribute to the new centre. The size of the donation doesn't matter and all donations are tax deductible." Camp alumni also include 4-H delegates from the other Prairie provinces and Montana.

Since 1975, graduate conservation campers have been honored with the Grant MacEwan Conservation Award. The award recognizes a conservation camper who makes an outstanding contribution in spreading the conservation message after attending the camp.

"We're hoping Grant MacEwan will be on hand to make the presentation to the 1990 winner," says Wiegman. The former provincial lieutenant-governor is a lifetime champion of conservation.

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The annual six-day camp's theme of "five is one" represents soil, water, forest, range and fish and wildlife conservation. Conservation campers choose to concentrate on two of the resource areas in group and study sessions with specialists from Alberta Agriculture, Alberta Environment, Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife and Olds College leading activities.

Wiegman says the utility companies initially supported the conservation camp concept to promote energy conservation and environmental awareness.

The first conservation camp was held at the Hinton Forestry School. Its other locations have been the James River Bible Camp and Silver Creek Ranch. This year will be its third at its permanent Battle Lake home.

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Contact: Henry Wiegman
427-2541

June 18, 1990
For immediate release

Oat bran not magic, but it is good for you

First, oat bran was acclaimed as a magic way to lower cholesterol, then, a study debunked those claims, leaving the consuming public confused about a product that filled their grocery store shelves.

"After a Boston study made headlines refuting earlier reports, consumers didn't know if they'd been caught up in a fad or if oat bran did reduce cholesterol," says Aileen Whitmore, Alberta Agriculture's provincial foods and nutrition specialist.

Oat bran does contain a large amount of a soluble fiber which does appear to play a role in reducing cholesterol, she says. "The chemistry is fairly complex, but oat bran can both cause the liver to use more cholesterol from the body to replace bile acids and block the cholesterol synthesis in the liver," she says.

However, oat bran isn't the only food containing soluble fiber. Apples, bananas, citrus fruits, carrots, barley, dried beans and peas are also sources. Researchers are currently examining how each food's soluble fiber may lower cholesterol.

"Research certainly is key. It has shown the benefits of oat bran that do exist, pointed out errors in studies, and it's extremely important research continue to look at oat bran's role," says Whitmore. "From my own examination of what is going on in the research world, I can say oat bran is a smart dietary choice along with other fiber sources. If nothing else--as experts have noted--oat bran, even without the controversy, has made everyone more conscious of high-fiber, low-fat diets."

There are lessons to be learned from experiences with oat bran, she adds. "If scientists and nutritionists don't want increased consumer cynicism from conflicting reports on diet, nutrition and health, they must be careful and explicit in what they tell the public. Those who are trying to grab headline space, can cause a lot of damage and confuse the public.

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"The media also has to be responsible in reporting information from a single study, and the public has to be cautious in accepting what they read when from a single source or study.

"People shouldn't jump on a bandwagon after a single study and change their health habits. No single food is a miracle cure or solution. Balance is important in a healthy diet," she says.

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Contact: Aileen Whitmore
427-2412

June 18, 1990
For immediate release

1990 crops display salutes university agriculture faculty's 75th

Crop varieties developed by the University of Alberta plant science department's breeding program will be featured at this year's Crops of Alberta display.

The one acre Crops of Alberta display, outside Alberta Agriculture's Edmonton headquarters building, is designed to promote agricultural awareness and the diversity of crops grown by Alberta farmers.

This year's theme, "75 years and growing", highlights the university's agriculture and forestry faculty's 75th anniversary. Feature plots include wheat, barley, oats and canola varieties developed by the plant science department's breeding program. "Some of the varieties date as far back as 1926. Newly released varieties have also been seeded," says co-ordinator John Doyle.

Traditional cereal, oilseed and forage crops are a continuing part of the display. Common alternative, or special crops, such as peas, beans, lentils and canary seed have been added to the display through the years. The 1990 display will also feature a wide selection of herbs. "Many of the herbs are being tried on a commercial scale in the province," he says.

Everyone is welcome to tour the plots, either on their own or by taking a guided tour, says Doyle. Signs at each plot explain the crop, its variety and its uses, for anyone who wants to look through the display on their own. Guided tours are available by calling Doyle at 427-7098. Doyle says the best viewing is between mid-July and mid-September.

The joint project of Alberta Agriculture's crop protection branch and the plant science department of the University of Alberta's faculty of agriculture and forestry has been an annual occurrence since 1985.

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Contact: John Doyle
427-7098

June 18, 1990
For immediate release

Alberta 4-Hers go to Indiana

Two Alberta 4-Hers will leave for Indiana on June 20 as part of an annual exchange to the western state.

Christine Ericksen, of Botha, and Sheila Thompson, of Milk River, will take part in a number of 4-H programs, as well as stay with a host family. At the Indiana 4-H Round-up, the Alberta delegates experience the atmosphere and lifestyle of an American university while the state's Junior Leader Conference is similar to the Alberta 4-H Club Week program.

"Both programs will allow our delegates to become better acquainted with the 4-H program in Indiana and provide a chance to experience the American lifestyle. The host family visit will also give the delegates the opportunity to learn more about agriculture, industry and lifestyle of an Indiana family," says Marguerite Stark, provincial camping and exchange specialist.

Exchange trip sponsor, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, will host the delegates and their families at a send-off banquet. The bank has sponsored this exchange since 1968.

Alberta's delegates were chosen for the exchange at the provincial 4-H selections program in May. They were awarded the trip based on their community and 4-H involvement, plus their interpersonal skills.

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Contact: Marguerite Stark
948-8510

Naomi Tkach
948-8513

June 18, 1990
For immediate release

Conservation tillage Peace society focus

Conservation tillage is the focus of the Spirit River-based Central Peace Conservation Society's activities.

Comparing zero and reduced tillage to conventional tillage has been part of demonstrations the society has been running. It received funds from the Canada/Alberta Agreement on Soil, Water, Cropping Research and Technology Transfer (CARTT) for demonstrations using a Haybuster 1000 seed drill. The drill was used for comparisons on the three types of tillage in wheat, barley and canola crops.

Society president Ken Charlton says one of the basic reasons it's experimenting with zero and reduced tillage plots goes beyond soil conservation to finding ways to reduce farming costs without losing income. "Net income, cash in the pocket after expenses, really counts. Net income will have the greatest impact on a farmer's decisions in the short term."

In the summer of 1989, four wheat plots, four barley plots and one canola plot were planted by the society. One plot was hailed out and the canola was unharvested because of excess moisture, but the rest of the sites showed interesting results, says John Zylstra, regional soil conservation co-ordinator.

"The zero till yielded as good as, or better, than the conventional till on all the sites except one. On that site there was too much competition from volunteer clover," Zylstra says.

Plot tours were held during the summer. "We found one of the most beneficial aspects of the project were the tours. Farmers saw with their own eyes that in 1989, at least, zero till was a viable economic alternative," says Charlton.

The society is planning to continue their plots for the next five years to evaluate economics, weed population changes and soil characteristics.

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As well as supplying the 10 foot seed drill, the CARTT program also provided funding so the society could hire a technician. During the summer he recorded pertinent data including seeding rates and dates, fertilizer and herbicide rates, soil moisture and temperature, weed populations, residue cover and yields. The technician also moved the seed drill from site to site and assisted with cleaning and adjusting the drill.

CARTT's objective is to develop and transfer appropriate conservation tillage and cropping technology which will minimize soil degradation and sustain economic crop production.

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Contact: John Zylstra
835-2291

June 18, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

SPACES AVAILABLE AT 4-H CAMPS

There are openings in all of the Battle Lake Junior 4-H camps. Each camp runs five days. For 4-H members ages 10 to 12, July 3 through 7, July 16 through 20 and August 12 through 17 are the dates available. For members 12 to 14 years of age, camps still available are August 6 through 10 and 20 through 24. This year's camp offers a different approach to the camping program. The theme--there's no place like camp for the holidays--designates each day a different holiday. Each week features five skills sessions. There is also an opportunity to camp out one night away from the main site. The environment has a special focus this year and campers will celebrate Earthday on their third day at camp. Applications are available from 4-H regional specialists. Fill out applications and return them as soon as possible to Marguerite Stark, Provincial 4-H camping and exchange specialist, Bag service #1, Airdrie, Alberta, T4B 2C1 or call 948-8561 to register.

MARKETING STRATEGY SEMINAR JUNE 26 IN RED DEER

The Western Barley Growers Association is presenting a one-day grains and livestock marketing strategy seminar in Red Deer June 26. Among the topics are: technical analysis and creative marketing for coarse grains and wheat; fundamental analysis of barley and wheat markets; how to handle the oilseed bull market; take your cattle and hog profits to your bottom line; the Alberta Barley Commission; and, a western oilseed outlook and strategy. Featured speakers include: Allan Kluis, of Ag Marketing Service in Minnesota; Robert Roehle, of the Canadian Wheat Board; Ken Stickland, KenAgra Management Services; and, Stan Wiskel, of the Western Barley Growers Association. To pre-register call 291-3630 in Calgary or FAX 291-9841.

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MATFP'90 ON VIDEO

Now you can watch eight featured 1990 Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit speakers on video. Available for loan from Alberta Agriculture's Film Library are: Tim Ball, University of Winnipeg climatologist, on "Geopolitics" (VT 890) and "The Greenhouse Effect" (VT 569-3); NAIT instructor Ron Crowe on the "Economic Cycle" (VT 800-1-1); Stan Curtis, University of Illinois animal science professor, on "Animal Welfare Issues" (VT 401-20); Dereka Thibault, of Peat Marwick Thorne, with a "Farm Tax Update" (VT 819-4); consultant Jolene Brown offers advice for responding to "Tough questions and tough situations" (VT 329-1); Ron Ball, University of Guelph professor, on "Quality and Safety of Animal Food Products" (VT 931-9); and, specialist Michael Sands on "Sustainable Agriculture" (VT 516-4). For loan information, write the Alberta Agriculture Film Library at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5T6.

DAIRY FARM BEAUTIFICATION COMPETITION

The Royal Bank of Canada and the Alberta Dairymen's Association is sponsoring a dairy farm beautification contest. The purpose of the competition is to encourage dairy producers to beautify their farmsteads, to demonstrate to the public the pride and professionalism of dairy producers and to foster higher quality dairy products. Eligibility criteria include producing quality of an acceptable standard during the past 12 months. Nominations must be received at the Alberta Dairymen's Association office by June 30 and a photo layout of the farm by July 15. For more information, contact the association at 14904-121A Avenue, Edmonton, T5V 1A3 or call 453-5942.

HORT WEEK AT OLDS COLLEGE JULY 15 TO 20

Olds College is offering a variety of courses in commercial design, leisure flower arranging, commercial and ornamental horticulture, fruit and vegetable production, general horticulture, schools for horticulture

(Cont'd)

Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

HORT WEEK AT OLDS COLLEGE JULY 15 TO 20 (cont'd)

judging and horticulture art and crafts July 15 through 20. Each of the eight topic areas has several specific courses ranging through pressed flowers, composting, herb gardening, specifics in landscaping, commercial wreath making, special arrangements and levels of design concepts. A discount is available on registration before July 1. For more information, contact Olds College extension services at 556-8344.

4-H SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE APPROACHING

Past and present 4-H members planning to apply for 4-H scholarships must have their applications into Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch by July 15. This year 70 scholarships worth more than $42,000 will be awarded for the 1990-91 academic year. Criteria for the scholarships varies. While most are based on academic skills, community involvement and 4-H background, some are non-academic, based on leadership skills or the area of the province members or former members come from. Everyone is encouraged to apply. Application forms are available from regional 4-H offices, district home economists and the 4-H branch in Edmonton. For more scholarship information, contact the 4-H branch at 427-2541.

HEREFORD ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL

The Canadian Hereford Association is celebrating its 100th birthday in Calgary July 3 through 5. Special events, tours, a cattlemen's clinic, the association's annual meeting and wind-up banquet are all part of the activities. For more information, contact the association's office in Calgary at 275-2662.

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AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

JUL - 9 1990

June 25, 1990

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

June 25, 1990
For immediate release

Co-operative first step projects links agriculture and waterfowl

A duck, a tractor and a line of rolling hills on a fence sign logo signify a co-operative project linking agriculture and wetlands. Behind the fence is a field of sweet clover, a legume underseeded last year with oats. The clover provides nesting cover for ducks and other water fowl and is a "green manure" for the farmer.

The logo marking the field belongs to the Buffalo Lake moraine first-step project. The 528 square mile Buffalo Lake moraine area north of Stettler was targeted as a kick start to the Prairie Habitat Joint Venture, the largest component of the 1986 North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP). The plan identifies 21 options that can be used to increase dwindling waterfowl numbers and improve their habitat.

Four of those options--purchasing land for permanent cover, nesting islands and two agricultural options, chemfallow and underseeding legumes--are being used in the $2.2 million Buffalo Lake moraine project. Increasing mallard duck populations is a specific aim of the project, with other species numbers hoped to increase proportionally. The project has just completed its first year of operation.

Ducks Unlimited has already purchased just over 2,500 acres of land in parcels ranging between 80 and 320 acres to establish dense nesting cover. All the land is marginal, class four or lower. Hills roll and fields are dotted with sloughs and potholes. Eventually, all will be seeded with an alfalfa grass mix that includes crested wheat, tall wheat, tall fescue and brome. When necessary, cattle will graze there to rejuvenate the stand.

Strips of nesting cover around sloughs and in ditches make waterfowl easy prey for predators, so the large areas of dense nesting cover should improve nesting success says project manager Brett Calverley, a Ducks Unlimited field biologist. The "duck farms" will be fenced, some with special electric predator fencing near critical habitat.

(Cont'd)

In 1989, 157 small nesting islands were constructed through the moraine area. All islands are seeded to provide cover. Three hundred more small nesting islands will be constructed this fall. All islands are secured through land purchase or by free easement. Calverley says the nesting islands improve nesting success with rates near 80 per cent. In comparison, success rates are hoped to improve to 20 per cent or better in dense nesting cover.

The two elements of the program involving farmer co-operators underscores a growing trend of increased soil conservation practices. Both programs--underseeding legumes and chemfallow--because they keep the soil covered have been used to prevent soil erosion. Both also provide nesting cover for waterfowl--clover's growth through the spring and early summer and the standing stubble preserved by herbicide application rather than tillage for weed control.

"What's good for the soil is also good for wildlife," says Calverley. But, area farmers still have to be convinced about the economic and agronomic benefits of participating in the programs.

"Farmers naturally have concerns," says Len Fullen, of Alberta Agriculture's resource planning branch. "They worry about more ducks feeding on crops in swaths and the damage from that, although there are feeding stations in the area. They also want to know the cost effectiveness of chemfallow and legume plowdown and what will work best in their farming operation."

In co-operation with Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch and with funding assistance from the Canada/Alberta Agreement on Soil, Water and Cropping Research and Technology Transfer (CARTT), underseeding legumes and chemfallow trials are being conducted at one of the Ducks Unlimited sites.

Tom Jensen, an Alberta Agriculture conservation specialist, is overseeing the three-year research project to fill in the lack of "good numbers to use when working with farmers". "We're tuning into what is compatible, what will benefit not only wildlife, but also be a useful farming practice," he says.

(Cont'd)

Co-operative first step projects links agricultural and waterfowl (cont'd)

Underseeding techniques, how to handle the legume either as an early or late hay, differences in forage quality based on when it's cut, comparisons of conventional tillage versus chemfallow, weed control, crop quality, yield and soil moisture will all be examined.

"The when of cutting is critical. For the best nesting cover it should stay up longer than a farmer might want it to--the critical date is about July 15. We'll also sample yields and do strip comparisons with farmers currently involved in both of the programs," Jensen says. Environment Canada is also studying translocation of chemfallow herbicides throughout the area.

Project agricultural technician Mark McNaughton says the research numbers will be important to his job of signing up farm co-operators to chemfallow and underseed legumes. In an area usually continuously cropped, economic considerations are what farmers want to know when he contacts them, he says. Currently, he doesn't have firm data to offer about weed control in legumes, soil moisture retention or other agronomic questions.

However, he adds, signs marking the projects have played a role in getting farmer co-operation. Two farmers got involved after seeing signs on neighbour's fields. "Seeing it done and seeing it work has swayed them," he says.

Currently four farmers have underseeded 320 acres in clover and 11 farmers are using chemfallow on 1,040 acres. They can sign up for one or both of the options for up to three years of the next six.

Farmers are paid for their involvement in the program receiving clover seed or half the cost of chemicals they use. Fullen says that's an important part of the program. "A lot of expectations surround farmers about maintaining habitat and wetlands, but there hasn't been an accompanying realization of the costs involved, especially when grain farming is going through tough economic times."

(Cont'd)

Co-operative first step projects links agriculture and waterfowl (cont'd)

Co-operation is the biggest part of the first-step project says Calverley, from the farm co-operators and volunteers to the municipal, provincial and federal governments, corresponding government agencies and other organizations involved in putting the NAWMP into action. Besides Ducks Unlimited, first-step partners include the Canadian Wildlife Service (Environment Canada), the Fish and Wildlife division of Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat Canada.

That co-operation isn't undervalued by Calverley who equates the the prime waterfowl habitat resource in the moraine to Amazon rain forests. To the locals and other Prairie dwellers, the moraine may seem like an everyday landscape but a European may look at our ducks the way we look at coral reefs or jungle, he says.

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Contact: Tom Jensen
422-6530

Len Fullen
427-5359

Brett Calverley
489-2002

June 25, 1990
For immediate release

1990s new era in pork industry

Family farms will still be the backbone of the pork industry in the 1990s but will be "leaner, meaner, larger" operations, a southern Alberta producer told an Alberta Pork Congress audience in Red Deer.

Peter Klok, a Nobleford pork producer, was one of three panel members who offered views at a "competing in the '90s" educational seminar. He says hog farmers will be better educated in the future and guesses the minimum operation will be a 200 sow, farrow to finish operation. Maximum farm size will depend on "the individual farm family's management capabilities", he adds.

Ron Gietz, Alberta Agriculture livestock market analyst, focused on the Alberta industry. "From a cost of production point of view, Alberta is one of the most efficient places to raise slaughter hogs in North America. It is likely to remain one of the cheapest places to grow hogs through the coming years, particularly if there is a favorable resolution of the method of payment issue sometime in the next decade," he says.

The chief advantage Alberta producers have is a relatively inexpensive feed supply, barley. Comparing feed:hog ratios between barley fed hogs here and U.S. and Eastern Canadian corn fed hogs shows Alberta production was profitable, particularly in the boom cycle between mid-1986 and mid-1988.

Even in 1988, when the two ratios were almost identical, Alberta still was competitive, he says. A comparative analysis study surveyed all hog production costs in 1988 for Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Nebraska producers. Alberta producer costs were lower than all of the others.

Gietz's second message was the hog cycle is dying a gradual death. The cycle isn't dead yet--he predicts lows in the next cycle as early as the fall of 1991 or as late as the next fall-- but, production trends are changing the character of the hog-cycle.

(Cont'd)

1990s new era in pork industry (cont'd)

"The continual shift to larger, more capital-intensive hog facilities throughout North America is resulting in much more stable levels of hog production than in the 'good old days', when farmers shifted resources into and out of hog production primarily in response to hog prices.

"Producers can no longer afford to have facilities sit idle in most cases. Besides, studies have clearly demonstrated that in the long run, the most profitable marketing strategy is to produce and market a steady flow of hogs, year in and year out," he says.

He also predicts the Alberta swine herd will continue to grow in the 1990s, based on generally favorable production margins. Poor returns in grain farming will spark interest in livestock and contribute to this growth. "Our annual output will exceed three million hogs late in the decade, finally surpassing the wartime record output of 2.98 million head, set in 1944," he says. Canadian output he says will reach one-fifth of U.S. output sometime in the 1990s, he adds.

Efficiency gains, however, will be more important. Alberta farmers have made modest gains, but pork has lost some market share to poultry. To regain that share will require efficiency gains this decade that are "unparalleled in history", he says.

The interesting trivia of an equal human and swine population in Alberta points out we can't eat all our production, so we must market our surplus, and that makes trade vital to the Alberta industry, he says. Gietz says he isn't optimistic about growth in either Japanese or Eastern European markets. Competitiveness, the expense and other difficulties in the Japanese market are barriers to a large amount of pork trade and after economic restructuring the Eastern Bloc is likely to become self sufficient, he says.

Shipments to other provinces will remain a major component of Alberta trade with minimal growth potential. The U.S., he says, will be the most important growth market of the '90s, but will require resolution of countervailing duties and border inspection issues.

(Cont'd)

Congress feature speaker, Jim Pettigrew, a swine nutritionist from the University of Minnesota, provided his observations about the American industry. He predicts a new era with massive changes in the United States that will probably also happen in Canada. Like Gietz, he pointed to production efficiency as a key to economic competitiveness within a global marketplace and also for space on consumer's plates.

He says he expects vertical integration in the U.S. to intensify in the next several years and cited examples of packer-producer and feed company-packing company-breeding operations who have combined. Among the reasons for this change, he says, are increased technological and management skills, the capital security offered to producers through contracts, control of product quality and feed companies looking for new business as their traditional business with small producers declines.

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Contact: Ron Gietz
427-5376

June 25, 1990
For immediate release

More sophisticated hog feeding in the '90s

Producers will have to be more sophisticated in how they feed their hogs as well as deal with a number of societal concerns in the 1990s says an American swine nutritionist.

Speaking at the recent Alberta Pork Congress in Red Deer, Jim Pettigrew told producers economic competitiveness will have a major effect on their feeding programs but consumer demands, the environment and animal rights and animal welfare movements will also change the way they feed their hogs. However, unless the pork industry is economically competitive, "then all the other stuff means nothing, because you're out of business anyway."

Economic competitiveness means operating at a high level of efficiency and production in a global pork industry and in competition with other meats and non-meat main courses, Pettigrew says.

Fine tuning feeding programs is the key to being competitive says the University of Minnesota animal science professor. More sophistication in feeding formulation standards, such as mathematical models that incorporate factors such as body weight, age, gender, genotype, energy density and health may become common so producers can ensure they're feeding an animal what is appropriate for the individual animal at a particular time in a particular environment.

Sow feeding programs, in particular, will undergo dramatic changes with advances in energy and protein needs of pregnant animals, he predicts. As well studies are also looking at the benefits of fiber in a pregnant sows diet.

Nutrient control in feedstuffs will be defined more precisely this decade he says and new critical nutrients may be discovered as choline was in the 1970s and biotine and folic acid in the '80s. Some of the nutrients currently being investigated are beta-carotene, riboflavin and tyrosine.

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Increased knowledge won't benefit either pig or producer unless quality control, or getting the right feed in the feeder, occurs, he says. Some mid-West American studies have pointed out significant differences between formula and feed and problems in mixing, weighing and handling. The 90's, says Pettigrew, will require better sampling and analyzing of feed programs.

Society's demands will also affect feeding. Consumers are concerned with fat content, drug residues, product uniformity and nutrition flexibility. To reduce pork's fat content producers are likely to increase the amino acids in swine feed, he says.

While the industry has a respectable record with drug residues, consumers remain concerned despite the fact their meat handling and preparation may cause them more harm than any drug residues. For producers, attitude is important, he says. "I'd like for you to more and more adopt the attitude that you're not just in the pig business, you're in the food business. I think that attitude will have some effects on the way you think about your business and the decisions you make."

Pettigew's biggest environmental concern was ground water contamination. Studies in Iowa, he says, show widespread ground water contamination, mainly from over fertilization. The nitrogen and phosphorous can also come from swine waste. But, he adds, armed with knowledge about pig nutrition, "We know how to begin to reduce the amount of nitrogen in swine waste by reducing the amount of nitrogen we put into the pig. I'm not sure we can do it economically at this point, but it may be one of the directions we go in the 1990s." As well, work with the phystase enzyme may lessen phosphorous requirements in swine diets.

Animal welfare concerns center on two production practices, he says, castration and sow gestation stalls. Both could have an impact on feeding. Feeding boars has different requirements than feeding barrows and removing sows from farrowing crates would require more sophisticated feeding methods for individual sows.

(Editor's Note: Proceedings from the 1990 Alberta Pork Congress are available by contacting Marvin Salomons in Red Deer at 340-5336.)

June 25, 1990
For immediate release

Producers, charities win at carcass competition

For eight pork producers the annual Alberta Pork Congress carcass competition netted them a much better than average return than a market pig would have, but they weren't the only winners.

The top eight carcasses from the annual barrow competition have traditionally been displayed and then sold by auction at the Congress banquet. The ballroom auction is one of the highlights of the four-day Congress, says Alberta Agriculture's Art Lange. "Another tradition is for the buyer to donate the carcass to a Red Deer and area charity."

The eight carcasses sold for a combined $24,250, for an average of just over $3,000. Market hog prices that day were $1.79 per kilogram that day or about $140 per hog, he adds.

First place honors in the contest went to Glenn Allen's Minioak Farms of Penhold. The carcass was sold to Fletcher's for $3,600 and was donated to the local Salvation Army.

The top eight carcasses were exhibited by (in order from first place): Glenn Allen, Minioak Farms, Penhold; Peter Klok, Outlook Pork, Nobleford; Hidden Valley Colony, Austin, Manitoba; Morinville Colony, Morinville; Abram and Lennard Vanderschee, Blackfalds; George Matejka & Sons, Sylvan Lake; Bill Slingerland, Picture Butte; and, Brad Armstrong, Vermilion.

Carcasses were donated to: Big Brothers and Sisters, the Central Alberta Women's Shelter; the Canadian Mental Health Association; the Red Deer Food Bank; Horizon School in Olds; and, the Mitchner Centre in Red Deer.

Buyers included: Premiere Mix, of Lethbridge; Precision Feeds, of Winnipeg; Gainers; Co-op Feeds; East-Man Feeds, of Lethbridge; Feed-Rite, of St. Paul, BCM Manufacturing, of Calgary; and, Canada Safeway.

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Producers, charities win at carcass competition (cont'd)

Seventy producers from across the Prairies took on the challenge to raise a quality hog in a limited time period, says Lange, of the pork industry branch. Barrows were tagged and weighed on producers' farms during the last week of March and first week of April. Pigs had to be brought to a 100 kg (220 lb.) market weight by June 11. Competition hogs were slaughtered on June 12 and judged by Agriculture Canada meat graders. Carcass quality and growth rate characteristics were considered in the scoring. Marks were given for loin eye per 100 pounds, carcass visual quality, index and average daily gain.

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Contact: Art Lange
427-5319

June 25, 1990
For immediate release

Resources available to help prevent farm accidents

Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program manager says he's concerned about a recent spate of accidental farm deaths.

On-farm accidents claimed the lives of seven people between April 7 and June 10 says Solomon Kyeremanteng. "That number in as many weeks is really very unusual, so we'd like to remind farmers and farm families to take care--remember not to service equipment while its running and avoid additional riders, especially children, on tractors."

One reason for the number of accidents may be the unsettled spring weather causing a rush to finish work, he says. "You do have to get your work done, but certainly not at the cost of your life."

Fatalities ranged from a farm yard run-over of an 18 month old child to a 66-year old drowning after falling into a dugout.

Kyeremanteng reminds the farming community a number of resources are available to help them with farm safety and farm first aid. Groups interested in farm safety workshops can contact the farm safety office in Edmonton at 427-2186 or Alberta Agriculture district offices.

The Alberta Women of Unifarm operate an annual farm safety hike program geared to the farm family. Booklets are available to assist families with a hike around their own yards to point out potential dangers.

Teaching aids are available from the farm safety program office for teachers to use in rural classrooms. Activity books and a video discuss farm safety.

First aid is also an important component of farm safety, he says. He recommends someone in the family be trained in basic first aid and also having a farm first aid kit ready for any emergency. Alberta Agriculture district agriculture offices have copies of a brochure outlining how to plan and put together a first-aid kit.

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Contact: Solomon Kyeremanteng
427-2186

June 25, 1990
For immediate release

Place ATV safety first place

The versatility of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) has helped farmers with a variety of farm jobs from chasing cattle to spraying fields, but the multi-purpose vehicles must always be handled carefully says Alberta Agriculture's farm safety program manager.

"Aside from the variety of chores farmers may use an ATV for, they can also be a recreational vehicle used by adults and children. Whatever the job and whoever is driving, safety should be a primary concern," says Solomon Kyeremanteng. Protective clothing, including a helmet, and training are important, he adds.

"While ATVs are relatively easy to operate and fun, there are very real hazards, particularly for children. Accidents have happened and happened very quickly, injuring and even killing within seconds," he says.

Kyeremanteng says he's had several calls about ATV safety courses. While Alberta Agriculture doesn't have an ATV program, he does recommend anyone interested in learning about safe operation of an ATV to contact the Alberta Safety Council. "The council has both recreational and industrial use courses. Instructors are located throughout the province," he says.

Anyone interested in an ATV user course should contact the Alberta Safety Council office at 201, 10526 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, T5J 1Z7 or call Tom LaLonde at 428-7555.

Three years ago the Canadian Pediatric Association announced a number of ATV use recommendations. Those recommendations included: discouraging the use of unlicensed two, three and four-wheel off-road vehicles and use by children under the age of 14 years; requiring helmets and protective clothing; operating only during daylight hours; and, carrying only one person at a time.

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Contact: Solomon Kyeremanteng
427-2186

June 25, 1990
For immediate release

Tripartite payment for dry edible beans

Alberta dry edible bean producers will be receiving an interim payment from the national tripartite stabilization program.

The national tripartite bean committee has approved an interim payment on "other dry edible colored" beans sold in the 1989 crop year. All varieties of colored beans grown in Alberta--Great Northern, red Mexican, pinto and pink--are eligible for the payment.

"Nearly $420,000 will be sent to Alberta dry edible bean producers enrolled in the national stabilization program. Cheques should be processed in early July," says Lloyd Andruchow, head of Alberta Agriculture's national tripartite specialty crops branch. Dry edible beans are grown on approximately 22,000 acres of irrigation land in the Bow Island-Taber area.

All 210 bean growers enrolled in the program are eligible for the interim payment of $40 per tonne for the 1989 bean crop, he says. The enrolled producers represent 98 per cent of total production. Andruchow adds the complete 1989 crop has been sold.

"Although bean prices are relatively high, adverse weather conditions in Alberta affected the quality of the 1989 bean crop resulting in lower market returns to producers. In combination with Alberta's position as dominant national producer of other colored beans, an interim payment was generated," Andruchow says.

A national tripartite stabilization program was developed in 1987 to stabilize returns to bean producers for a decade. Three specific bean categories are included: white pea beans, kidney and cranberry beans and other colored beans.

Stabilization payments are triggered when the market price drops below a set support price. Interim stabilization payments are based on 75 per cent of the difference between the estimated support price and the average market return. Producers and the provincial and federal governments contribute equally to the fund through annual premiums.

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Contact: Lloyd Andruchow
427-5879

June 25, 1990
For immediate release

Soil conservation action in Spirit River area

A Peace Country conservation society and two municipalities have joined forces to develop a soil conservation action plan.

With funding assistance from the two federal/provincial soil conservation agreements, the Central Peace Conservation Society, the Municipal District of Spirit River and Improvement District No. 20 have hired a full-time soil conservation technician to carry out demonstration and awareness activities in an area centered by Spirit River.

Ken Charlton, the society's chairman, says he is looking forward to continuing work with reduced and zero tillage carried out in 1989. Nine society members had field demonstrations on their farms.

"Since yields under zero and reduced tillage were the same as conventional tillage, our group's members are interested in the cost savings using reduced tillage, as well as the benefits of soil conservation," says Charlton.

The Central Peace action plan also calls for crop residue and soil compaction demonstrations. This will include evaluating mowing and crop shredding as an alternative to burning and excessive tillage.

Eventually, the group hopes to develop a more complete program of soil conservation projects, says John Zylstra, Alberta Agriculture regional soil conservation co-ordinator. Other prospective projects include chemical fallow, legume plowdown as an alternative to fallow, continuous cropping, moisture conservation, shelterbelts and on-farm conservation planning.

"Because the society believes that we are borrowing our land from our children, we've been involved in awareness programs for children. Making children aware of the soil and its value is an important step in forming a positive attitude toward soil conservation," says Charlton. Along with a Dawson Creek conservation association, the society brought a conservation play "Planting in the Dust" to Spirit River, Rycroft and Dawson Creek schools. As well, a puppet show, "Song for the Earth", was shown at the Savannah school.

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Soil conservation action in Spirit River area (cont'd)

The Central Peace Conservation Society would be happy to welcome more members, he says. Interested people can contact him in Spirit River at 864-2234 or Barb Wutzke, the society's secretary, at 864-3500. "Non-society members are always welcome to general meetings and summer tours," he adds.

Funding assistance for the society's projects is from both the Canada/Alberta Agreement on Soil, Water and Cropping Research and Technology Transfer (CARTT) and the Canada/Alberta Soil Conservation Initiative (CASCI).

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Contact: John Zylstra
835-2291

Ken Charlton
864-2234

June 25, 1990
For immediate release

Alberta 4-Hers go to Western provinces seminar

Eleven Alberta 4-H members and a staff chaperon will head east Saturday (June 30) for the Western Provinces 4-H seminar.

Seminar delegates are: Faye Bowman, Sundre; Tammy Boychuk, Brosseau; Shannon Doyle, Leslieville; Stephanie Koole, Lacombe; Kerry McCarty, Vegreville; Patty Mitchell, Pincher Creek; Elan Properzi, Barrhead; Timothy Pullishy, Star; Lavonne Schultz, Bashaw; Karen Simpson, Bentley; and, Heather Slemko, Hussar. Janet Kerr, Red Deer regional 4-H specialist, will accompany the delegates.

"The Western Provinces seminar provides senior 4-H members with a unique way of meeting and recognizing the other Western provinces' 4-H organizations. The seminar also provides an opportunity for participants to discuss issues and concerns important to them as young people while, in turn, developing leadership skills and growing as individuals," says Marguerite Stark, provincial 4-H camping and exchange specialist.

Reaching-out Canada and the Third World is the 1990 seminar's theme. "Organizers hope participants will develop a better understanding of developing countries and the issues affecting them. They're also aiming to provide delegates with an understanding of Canada's role in aid and development of other countries while gaining a greater understanding and appreciation of other cultures," says Naomi Tkach, 4-H summer travel and exchange co-ordinator.

The seminar runs June 30 through July 5 at the Rayner Centre on Diefenbaker Lake. This year's sponsors are the provincial 4-H councils in Western Canada and the Canadian International Development Agency.

Alberta delegates were chosen at the 4-H selections program in May. They were awarded the trip based on community and 4-H involvement plus interpersonal skills.

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Contact: Marguerite Stark
948-8510

Naomi Tkach
948-8513

June 25, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

CONGRESS HIGHLIGHTS PORK BESTS

From a ballroom carcass auction to the trade show floor, and from the show ring to educational seminars, the recent 16th annual Alberta Pork Congress in Red Deer highlighted the best of the provincial pork industry's technology and product. Top spot in the barrow carcass competition went to Glenn Allen's Minioak Farms, of Penhold. The carcass was sold to Fletcher's for $3,600 and was donated to the Salvation Army. Each year the Congress also recognizes pork industry leaders. The progressive pork producer award went to John and Joanne Van Strien, of Hays. Gerry Wagner, of Penhold, received the pork industry herdsman award and James Christie, of Trochu, was awarded the pork industry leadership award. Swine shows throughout the week culminated with a sale on the final day of the Congress. The top selling boar was a Yorkshire contributed by Five Lakes Farm of Mayerthrope and was purchased by Brian Braumberg of Lipton, Saskatchewan for $1,025. A Sorrento, British Columbia buyer, Rene Heare, took home the top selling $725 gilt exhibited by Dan Turko, of Newbrook. The gilt was the champion Yorkshire at the show. Turko also won the live barrow judging contest. Thirty-eight boars sold for an average price of $500 and 25 gilts sold at an average of $405. The grand champion boar and supreme purebred champion of the show was a Yorkshire exhibited by George Matejka and Sons, of Sylvan Lake. Minioak Farms exhibited the champion group of three live barrows. On the fun side, the hog calling contest winners were: Brandy Allen, of Red Deer (junior), Sylvia Mathon, of Innisfail, (women), and Terry Ireland, of Sylvan Lake (men). For more information about the Congress contact Pat Kennedy in Red Deer at 340-5307.

CONSERVATION FIELD DAY AT LAKELAND COLLEGE

Lakeland College is hosting a conservation tillage field day July 5 at the Vermilion campus. Seminars on a variety of topics will run in

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CONSERVATION FIELD DAY AT LAKELAND COLLEGE (cont'd)

the morning. Featured speaker is Gordon Hilton, a Strathmore farmer and inductee in the Canadian Conservation Hall of Fame. A free beef-on-a-bun lunch will be followed by field demonstrations of conservation tillage and seeding equipment through the afternoon. Tours of several on-farm demonstrations will also be offered. Co-sponsors of the field day are Alberta Agriculture, the County of Vermilion River and the Vermilion Agricultural Society. For more information, contact the the Vermilion campus continuing education office at 853-8444.

CATTLE FEEDERS SUMMER SEMINAR JULY 9

Price discovery and feeder/packer realities will be discussed at an Alberta Cattle Feeders Association seminar July 9 in Calgary. Guest speakers will look at: competition, consolidation and pricing; price discovery and market information issues; the competitive position of Western Canadian packers; guaranteeing product wholesomeness; and, rounding up the cash to own the cattle. Registrations are limited to 100. Contact the association office in Calgary at 250-2509, for more information.

BRETON PLOTS FIELD DAY FOCUS ON AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS

Agricultural chemicals are in the spotlight at this year's Breton Plots field day July 6. Speakers from the University of Alberta and Alberta Agriculture will present talks on fertilizer, herbicides, insecticides and safe handling of agricultural chemicals. Plot tours and a soil/crop clinic will also be featured. Lunch will be provided by the Alberta Wheat Pool. The University of Alberta's department of soil science is celebrating 61 years of experimental work at the site. The Breton Plots are on Gray Luvisolic (wooded) soils which are low in sulphur, nitrogen and organic matter. These plots are some of the oldest long-term research plots in the world. Breton is located about 100 km southwest of Edmonton, west on Highway 39 and south of Highway 20. For more information, contact Jim Robertson at the University of Alberta at 492-3242 or 492-0191.

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4-H DISCOVER ALBERTA FOOD TOUR

A select group of Alberta 4-H members and leaders will gather to look at Alberta's agriculture and food industry July 9 through 13. The Alberta Agriculture and Agriculture Canada sponsored tour will give first hand exposure to various food processors and producers in central Alberta. Among tour stops are: Van's Sausage, Heritage Foods, I&S Food Service Distributors, Villetard's Eggs, Byers Flour Mill and Living Foods. A Leduc grocery store tour and Alberta Agriculture's Food Processing Development Centre will wind up tour activities. 4-H members will make presentations in their own communities to encourage others to "discover Alberta", says Penny Wilkes of the 4-H branch. For more information, contact Wilkes at 427-2541.

KINSELLA RANCH DAY JULY 5

This year's annual field day at the University of Alberta's Kinsella Ranch is July 5. Speakers will discuss a variety of beef industry topics in morning and afternoon sessions. Topics include breeding, year round cow management, reproduction and fertility and range management. Ranch tours run through the afternoon. An evening barbecue rounds out the day's activities. For more information, contact Mac Makarechian at 492-1316 or Mick Price at 492-3235 at the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

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AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

JUL 20 1990

July 2, 1990

For immediate release

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Information Services Division

July 2, 1990
For immediate release

Safe meat preparation not just barbecue precaution

Any touch of still pink meat in a hamburger means it should go back on the barbecue grill or back to the restaurant chef says Alberta Agriculture's provincial food and nutrition specialist.

"Undercooked hamburger, in particular, is a prime culprit in the type of food poisoning commonly referred to as 'hamburger disease' or 'barbecue syndrome'," says Aileen Whitmore.

The gastrointestinal illness is caused by E. coli bacteria. The bacteria produces a poison or toxin that damages the intestine's lining and results in hemorrhagic colitis. Symptoms include severe stomach cramps and bloody diarrhea and a mild fever two to eight days after eating contaminated food. Anyone with those symptoms should contact their physician.

Most people recover from the infection within two weeks. In a very small number of cases, the E. coli toxin results in a serious, sometimes fatal complication, Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS). This kidney failure is especially dangerous to young children, the chronically ill and the elderly.

Hamburger is a likely candidate for contamination as the bacteria is usually found on the surface of raw meat. Through the grinding process, surface contaminants spread throughout the uncooked ground meat. "Thorough cooking will destroy the bacteria. That means the centers of hamburger patties are brown and juices are clear," says Whitmore.

While hamburger tops the list as a potential candidate for this type of food poisoning, it isn't the only candidate she warns. The list also includes ham, poultry, cheese sandwiches and raw milk. Nor is the illness isolated to only the barbecue season. "How you handle food could cause the illness at any time," she says. Prevention includes thorough cooking, pasteurization and safe food handling and preparation to destroy the E. coli bacteria.

(Cont'd)

Safe handling starts when choosing fresh products at the grocery store, she says. Next is refrigerating or freezing meat as soon as possible after purchase. Frozen meat should be thawed in the refrigerator or microwave, but not at room temperature. Raw hamburger patties, and other meats, should be prepared quickly, cooked right away or put in the refrigerator. Raw meats shouldn't be allowed to sit at room temperature.

"Harmful bacteria begin to flourish on cold food when its temperature is above 5 degrees Celsius," she says. "So keep cold food below that temperature. When the meat is cooked, serve quickly because the environment is right for bacteria when hot foods are below 60 degrees Celsius, so keep your hot food hot. Return leftover meat to the refrigerator promptly."

One of the biggest mistakes barbecue chefs make is putting the cooked meat on the same plate raw food was on. "You've just killed the bacteria by cooking, then recontaminate the food with the raw juices. Always put cooked food on a clean plate," says Whitmore.

"I also want to emphasize the importance of cleanliness. All utensils, cutting boards and counters must be washed with hot soapy water and sterilized to prevent the bacteria from contacting other food. To sterilize, add a little bleach to the water," she says. "Cooks need to wash their hands well after handling raw meat, too."

She adds some people have asked about rare steaks and potential food poisoning. "Because the bacteria is usually harbored on the meat's surface, the pink centre of a rare or medium rare steak shouldn't be dangerous as long as the outside of the steak has been cooked," she says.

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Contact: Aileen Whitmore
427-2412

July 2, 1990
For immediate release

Farm Weather Line is where the weather is

Alberta's Farm Weather Line is getting to be a habit with Coronation and Medicine Hat farmers, the areas where the line was extended last October.

"Our statistics show farmers in those two areas still don't use the weather line as much as producers in other areas of the province, but the number of calls is steadily increasing and is especially encouraging in Coronation," says Peter Dzikowski, Alberta Agriculture's weather resource specialist.

Dzikowski says efforts will be made through the summer to promote the service in the Medicine Hat area.

Alberta's Farm Weather Line, a co-operative service of Alberta Agriculture and Environment Canada's Atmospheric Environment Service, is in it's sixth season of operation. It brings farmers across the province up-to-date agricultural weather forecasts.

Calls to the service were high during April and May. Compared to 1989, calls during the two months were up by nearly 40 per cent on the Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge and Grande Prairie lines. "The increase in calls early in the season may be due to the unusual May weather with its flooding, dust storms and heavy isolated showers," he says.

Continuous use over the winter may have also contributed to the increased number of calls, he adds. This was the first year the service was extended beyond the crop season between April and October.

Farmers can call one of six farm weather lines. Long distance charges do apply. The telephone numbers are: Grande Prairie, 539-7654; Edmonton, 468-9196; Calgary, 295-1003; Lethbridge, 328-RAIN (7246); Medicine Hat, 526-6224; and Coronation, 57-TEMPS (578-3677). Forecasts specific to each region are updated four times daily at 5:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

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Contact: Peter Dzikowski
422-4385

July 2, 1990
For immediate release

Barrier strips good wind erosion control

Annual barrier strips are one way to prevent wind erosion when there's little cover on fields says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Drought in 1989 left very little residue cover on many fields in southeastern Alberta, resulting in large erosion losses this spring and a very high risk of erosion on cultivated summerfallow through the summer, fall and winter of 1990 and the spring of 1991. One way to combat the problem is by seeding barrier strips," says Vasile Klaassen, Alberta Agriculture south central region soil conservation co-ordinator.

"Seeding annual barrier strips into summerfallow is an good idea that works when crop residue levels on the soil surface are low and cultivation is perceived to be the only economical method of summerfallow," says Greg Travis, Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) area conservationist in Hanna.

Annual barrier strips reduce the wind erosion hazard by reducing wind velocity across a field. They have the added advantage of trapping snow over the winter months to add to soil moisture. Flax is the most commonly seeded annual barrier crop, although others, such as mustard, canola, cereal grains and sunflowers have been used in some areas.

"The advantage of flax is that the upright residue left in the fall will withstand strong winter winds without falling over," Travis says.

The conservation specialists have several recommendations for farmers who want to use the barrier strips in their summerfallow. Strips should be at right angles to the prevailing winds of late winter and early spring. Optimum strip spacing is 25 to 50 feet and each strip should have one to three seeded rows spaced six inches to one foot apart. Width depends on the type of implements used.

"Commercial strip seeders are available, but many farmers have built or modified seeding equipment. Ask your district agriculturist or agricultural fieldman if equipment is available in your area," Klaassen says.

(Cont'd)

When using a strip seeder, mount it at the centre of the tillage implement for straighter rows. If additional cultivation is required, remove the centre shank on the cultivator so it can straddle the strip.

The best seeding date is mid-July to allow plants to grow about two feet tall before the first snow fall. Straw should be stiff enough then to reduce wind velocity and trap snow.

Certified seed is recommended to ensure good germination and to reduce weed problems.

Demonstrations of the barrier strips will be going on in the province's eastern special areas. The Chinook Applied Research Association (CARA) has purchased four types of barrier strip seeders to use for the demonstrations. The demonstration is part of CARA's action plan designed through the Canada/Alberta Soil Conservation Initiative (CASCI) program. CARA will use flax, mustard and durum wheat barriers and will evaluate emergence, establishment, barrier height, snow trap and next year's crop growth and yield.

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Contact: Vasile Klaassen
948-8543

Greg Travis
854-4448

July 2, 1990
For immediate release

Annual ram test sale includes angora goats

This year's Alberta ram test station sale will have a new twist, performance tested angora goats will also be on the auction block at Olds College on July 7.

"For the first time, performance tested yearling angora bucks will be part of the sale," says Cathy Gallivan, Alberta Agriculture's provincial sheep and goat specialist. The bucks have been tested for fleece weight (45 per cent), fibre diameter (45 per cent) and body weight (10 per cent). Only the best of the 40 bucks on test will be sold at the 11 a.m. sale.

"The test station and sale is getting more and more popular with purebred and commercial sheep breeders because it offers assurances of quality. Including the angora bucks adds another dimension to a growing industry," says Gallivan.

Ten different breeds will be represented in the ram sale. Suffolks, Dorsets, Polypays, Rambouillets, Hampshires, Columbias, Romanovs, Clun Forests, Rideau Arcotts and Finnish Landrace that index above 100 will be sold. These rams will be above the station average for average daily gain and must pass a rigorous physical cull for teeth, testicles and legs.

A limited number of yearling rams from the wool breed test will also be available.

Prospective buyers can view the rams starting at 10 a.m. A lamb barbecue proceeds the 1 p.m. sale start.

"If you're interested in the sale, but can't attend, you can contact me about written bids," says Gallivan. Call her in Airdrie at 948-8517.

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Contact: Cathy Gallivan
948-8517

July 2, 1990
For immediate release

Wet June heightens fireblight potential

Wet weather plus warmth in June provided perfect conditions for fireblight bacteria on fruit and ornamental trees says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

Fireblight affects many fruit bearing plants. These include apples, crabapples, pears, plums, saskatoons, and even raspberries. Ornamental trees such as mountain ash, hawthorn and cotoneaster are also prey to the bacteria.

"The bacterial disease begins at the end of tree branches and works it way down the branches. Leaves turn reddish brown and curl up, giving them a scorched look, and gives fireblight its name," says Pam North, of the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre. "It's also very infectious and can spread easily between trees by insects, wind or rain."

Usually infected leaves stay on the tree, rather than falling off. Twigs and branches also turn reddish brown and crack, while fruit dries up and turns brown or black. In humid weather, infected areas may ooze droplets of a clear or amber liquid.

Pruning is the only way to control fireblight, she says. Branches should be cut 25 to 45 cm below the blighted area. Cuts should be made into healthy wood. "This is a precaution in case the bacteria has moved beyond the part of the branch that looks blighted," she says. Pruned branches should be burned or disposed of in plastic garbage bags.

Pruning shears must be disinfected after each cut. A household bleach mixed in water will work.

If the fireblight appears to be in the tree trunk, the whole tree may have to be removed.

Fireblight can be prevented by avoiding high nitrogen fertilizers that promote susceptible succulent growth. Removing suckers and waterspouts also help prevent the disease.

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Contact: Pam North
472-6043

Betty Vladicka
472-6043

July 2, 1990
For immediate release

Root maggot alert

Root maggots may be the cause of wilting cole crops and yellowing outer leaves in your vegetable garden says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

The maggots attack all types of cole crops--broccoli, cabbage, radishes and turnip--and also onions says Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre.

Root maggots, as adults, are greyish colored and resemble house flies. The flies lay eggs in the soil that hatch into small white legless larvae. Larvae can grow to up to one centimetre in length.

While wilting and yellowing leaves are the first sign of root maggots, digging up an infested plant will show there are very few feeder roots on turnips and radishes. "You will be able to see tunnelling into the edible portion of the root," says North.

Soil drenching with liquid diazinon is one way to control the pest, she says. Follow directions on the label for mixing with water. Apply around the base of each plant. The drench should be repeated once every seven to 10 days until the end of June and from late July to mid-August.

"When applying pesticides to food crops, read the label and find out the number of days required from application until harvest," North says.

There are also several non-chemical ways to control root maggots. Some people spread wood ash over the soil around the plants. Using barriers, such as an aluminum foil mulch or tar paper discs, when planting prevents the adult fly from laying eggs in the soil. Row covers and garden blankets also act as barriers.

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Contact: Pam North
472-6043

Betty Vladicka
472-6043

July 2, 1990
For immediate release

4-Hers going east and coming west

While five Alberta 4-H members go east as part of interprovincial exchange this week, five 4-H delegates from across Canada will be coming to Alberta to stay with 4-H families.

The Canada-wide exchange begins July 3, as 50 4-Hers from Canada's 10 provinces start a two week experience in another part of the country. Alberta's five delegates, their hometowns and their destinations are: Karyn Copland, Lacombe (New Brunswick); Sherry Pfannmuller, Mayerthorpe (Nova Scotia); Gail Roessler, Sexsmith (Prince Edward Island); Jim Stannard, Sherwood Park (Ontario); and, Alan Stelten, Milk River (Manitoba). Alberta's delegates were chosen for the exchange at provincial 4-H selections in May. Trip awards are based on community and 4-H involvement plus interpersonal skills.

Each delegate will stay with host families during their visit. "Our 4-H members will learn more about agriculture, industry and lifestyle in the other provinces. The exchange will also give them an opportunity to compare 4-H programs," says Marguerite Stark, provincial 4-H camping and exchange specialist.

Before they leave, Alberta delegates and their families will be treated to a send-off banquet by the exchange's sponsor of 28 years, the Royal Bank of Canada.

Five 4-H delegates from other parts of Canada will arrive in Alberta on July 4. During their first three days here, they will tour Calgary and Banff areas. Delegates meet their host families on July 7 to begin the final 10 days of their stay in Alberta. Louan Wardell (Ontario) will stay with the Bill Hamblin family of Vermilion while Pam Wiles (Nova Scotia) visits the Charles Simpson family of Bentley. The Duane Ronsko family of Daysland will host Todd Geddes (New Brunswick) while the Doug Stewart family of Stettler hosts Darilyn Brinkman (Manitoba). Anne McLaurin (Prince Edward Island) will stay with the Marvin Tkach family of Coronation.

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Contact: Marguerite Stark
948-8510

Naomi Tkach
948-8513

July 2, 1990
For immediate release

Effective leadership in spotlight for 4-H delegates

Three Alberta 4-H members will embark on a two phase journey to becoming better leaders starting today (July 2) at the Blue Lake youth leadership seminar.

Held at the Blue Lake Centre near Hinton, the seminar is divided into two parts. The first phase runs July 2 through 7 and the second, November 22 through 25. The 1990 seminar delegates are: Susan Basset, of Medicine Hat; Allan Crawford, of Irma; and, Tamsin Hodgetts, of Camrose.

Tanya-Grace Hatch, a 4-H leader from Cherry Grove, will also attend the seminar as an adult leader volunteer. As well as attending the two-part members' program, she went to an orientation session June 15 through 17.

"The main emphasis of the program is centered on the premise that each individual has unique leadership abilities and that by developing a greater insight into one's personal strengths and areas of potential development, you can become a more effective leader," says Naomi Tkach, 4-H summer travel and exchange co-ordinator.

"Leadership abilities are challenged in a positive and experimental learning environment," says Marguerite Stark, provincial 4-H camping and exchange specialist. "When delegates leave the seminar, it's hoped they take information and their new skills to their particular youth association."

4-H delegates were chosen for the seminar at the provincial 4-H selections program in May. Trip awards are based on community and 4-H involvement as well as interpersonal skills.

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Contact: Marguerite Stark
948-8510

Naomi Tkach
948-8513

July 2, 1990
For immediate release

ACTS uses awareness display

The Alberta Conservation Tillage Society (ACTS) message--"Soil is number one, don't blow it"--is getting out to more people through a display funded by the Canada/Alberta Agreement on Soil, Water and Cropping Research and Technology Transfer (CARTT).

"ACTS is taking a leading role in promoting all aspects of soil conservation in Alberta and in providing producers with strong peer support as they venture into soil conservation practices," says Vasile Klaassen, south central regional soil conservation co-ordinator.

The CARTT funded display is a focus for discussing soil conservation issues and to draw attention to ACTS activities. The display has travelled to a number of agricultural events such as the Western Canada Wheat Growers Convention and Ag Expo in Lethbridge. ACTS volunteers man the display and encourage discussion with people who stop to look. The volunteer farmers share their experience with their peers and the public, she says.

"The display has a busy schedule in 1990 and will likely continue to be popular in coming years. It's a very effective tool for promoting soil conservation and for generating interest in ACTS activities and membership," she adds.

For more information about ACTS or having the display at a meeting or conference, contact Wayne Arrison, ACTS president, in Red Deer at 343-8086 or 347-5392.

CARTT's objective is to develop and transfer appropriate conservation tillage and cropping technology which will minimize soil degradation and sustain economic crop production. Projects must meet this criteria to be given funding approval.

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Contact: Vasile Klaassen
948-8543

Wayne Arrison
343-8086
347-5392

July 2, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM PART OF AGRICULTURE FACULTY'S 75TH CELEBRATIONS

As part of its 75th anniversary celebrations, the University of Alberta's agriculture and forestry faculty is looking to the future at a public symposium on July 21. Challenges and education for renewable resource management in the 21st century is the theme of the symposium. Giving the keynote address is Alex McCalla, an internationally recognized faculty alumnus, currently a professor of agricultural economics at the University of California, Davis and chair of the consultative group on international agricultural research. Presentations will also be made by Jim Lore, a leading Canadian agricultural consultant, Dennis Vriend, president of the Sustainable Agriculture Association of Alberta, and Neil Miller, forestry consultant and vice-president of Alberta Spruce Industries. The symposium will be held at the Myer Horowitz Theatre in the university's Students' Union Building starting at 1 p.m. The faculty will also present "professional achievement awards" for research, business, public and community service to distinguished alumni. Anniversary celebrations July 19 through 21 include an opening reception, campus and farm tours, a reunion round-up, a "Bar-None" breakfast and a celebration banquet that looks at the past 75 years in a multi-media presentation with Roy Berg looking into the future. For more information about the symposium, or any of the 75th anniversary events, contact the faculty dean's office by calling 492-4931 (492-4265 FAX) or writing 2-14 Agriculture-Forestry Centre, University of Alberta, Edmonton, T6G 2P5.

AG LENDERS MANUAL AVAILABLE

A five-day educational seminar for agricultural lenders attracted 90 people to Olds College last month. The workshop gives representatives from financial institutions an opportunity to learn about agricultural production and marketing. The workshop is a joint

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Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

AG LENDERS MANUAL AVAILABLE (cont'd)

venture of the college, representatives from agricultural credit institutions and Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch. Tours to farms, machinery dealerships and an auction market were part of the seminar activities. Alberta Agriculture prepared an "Agricultural Lenders Manual" for participants to take home for reference. Production manuals, publication lists and contact people's names and numbers are included in the reference material. The manual is a good reference not only for agricultural lenders, but also farmers, agricultural consultants and other people concerned with the industry. Olds College has printed some extra copies of the manual available at $35. Cheques should be made payable to Olds College and requests sent to Cindy Turner, Olds College, Extension Services, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0. For more information about the workshop, contact Craig Edwards at Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch in Olds, at 556-4248.

NEW LEADERSHIP/MANAGEMENT VIDEOS AVAILABLE

Alberta Agriculture's Film Library has three new management videos available for loan. "One Page Management" (VT 391-9) presents a specific strategy for managing change in a farm family. Featured is Gerry Bradshaw, of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch, speaking at the 1990 Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit conference. Bradshaw discusses production, finance, marketing and human resources. In "The Danbury Secret of Flexible Behavior" (VT 359-4), learn to observe individual behavior styles and how to adjust with Nick, a salesman, who's having trouble closing deals. Designed by the Walt Disney Training and Development program, the 19-minute video teaches four behavior styles, their characteristics and ways to better communication. In "B-E-N-N-I-S on Leadership" (VT 392-1), author Warren Bennis investigates what makes a superior leader. Bennis interviewed 90 leaders from the public and private sector in a four year study. The package includes a viewer's guide and two video tapes. For loan information, write Alberta Agriculture's Film Library at 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

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Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

ALBERTA DAIRY CONGRESS IN LEDUC JULY 24 AND 25

Making hay while the sun shines is the theme of this year's Alberta Dairy Congress that puts its focus on quality forage production in the 1990s. The congress is July 24 and 25 at the Leduc curling club. A forage competition and display will showcase quality hay and silage. Seminars will also look at the theme and include climatologist Tim Ball on "Will the sun shine?" and Agriculture Canada researchers discussing non-bloat alfalfa and inoculation. The trade show features over 100 exhibitors representing primary producers, processors, equipment and farm supply manufacturers, government, food retailers and consumers. Three farm tours are also offered. Another highlight is the Western Canadian Classic with Alberta 4-H dairy club members showing their animals and skills. Also part of the agenda are a kick-off breakfast, a ladies program and a brown cow social. For more information contact the congress office in Leduc at 986-8108.

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AGRI-NEWS

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

July 9, 1990
For immediate release

New chairman and vice-chairman for Irrigation Council

Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan has announced the appointments of a new chairman and vice-chairman of the Alberta Irrigation Council.

The new council chairman is John Weing, an irrigation farmer in the Magrath area. Weing has been a member of the Irrigation Council since December, 1989. He is a past chairman of the Magrath Irrigation District board of directors and has been a member of the Alberta Irrigation Projects Association.

The council's new vice-chairman is John Hollinda, a water user in the Eastern Irrigation District (EID) who farms near Tilley. Hollinda has been a member of the council since April, 1987. He is a past member of the EID's board of directors and past president of the Alberta Irrigation Projects Association.

"I am very pleased that John Weing and John Hollinda have accepted the appointments. These gentlemen will be great assets to the council as chairman and vice-chairman. Both are forward-looking individuals, dedicated to the improvement of irrigation farming in Alberta, and both bring valuable skills and experience to the council's deliberations," says McClellan.

In making the announcement, the associate minister emphasized her appreciation of the contribution made to irrigation in Alberta by the previous vice chairman and acting chairman, Leighton Buckwell.

"Leighton Buckwell has done an outstanding job for the Alberta Irrigation Council, both in his capacity of vice-chairman, and in stepping in when he was most needed, to act as chairman of the council. Leighton's leadership and his very successful efforts on behalf of Alberta's irrigation farmers will be remembered with gratitude by all members of the industry. I am happy Leighton will be staying on as a member of the Irrigation Council until the fall of this year."

(Cont'd)

The Alberta Irrigation Council serves as an advisory body on irrigation-related matters to the minister and associate minister of agriculture and to the province's 13 active irrigation districts. The council also administers cost-sharing agreements for the rehabilitation of irrigation works under the Government of Alberta's Irrigation Rehabilitation and Expansion Program.

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Contact: Louise Riopel
422-9156

G.P. Hartman
381-5176

July 9, 1990
For immediate release

Terracing project for erosion control

A terracing project will start this year with funds from the Canada/Alberta Agreement on Soil, Water and Cropping Research and Technology Transfer (CARTT) program.

The County of Beaver is launching the unique project to demonstrate the viability of terracing erosion prone fields, says Carol Bettac, Alberta Agriculture's northeast regional soil conservation co-ordinator.

Terracing is a physical reshaping of slope to control erosion on cropland. To be successful, terrace design must take into consideration factors that will influence its effectiveness. These include soil characteristics, soil management practices and climatic conditions.

"Through the years, Alberta farmers have used combinations of earth berms and interception channels to control runoff and water erosion, but we aren't aware of anyone specifically using terracing," says Douwe Vanderwel, conservation engineer with Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch. He adds, terraces have been used successfully for many years in Ontario and many parts of the United States.

"People probably think of terraces and the bench or step types you see on mountain sides. But, the type of terracing in this project is more suited to Alberta's sloping agricultural lands and improves its farmability. In other words, you can still work the field with your machinery," says Bettac.

She adds the project will be a working example to document and demonstrate erosion reduction, construction costs and the effect terraces have on farming any particular field.

About 3,000 metres of a narrow based terrace will be constructed over a year. "The construction is mainly an earth moving operation involving motor graders, crawler tractors and other heavy equipment. Good site supervision will be essential to ensure proper installation," says Vanderwel.

(Cont'd)

Terracing project for erosion control (cont'd)

For more information about the project, contact Bettac in Vermilion at 853-8109 or Vanderwel in Edmonton at 422-4385.

CARTT's objective is to develop and transfer appropriate conservation tillage and cropping technology which will minimize soil degradation and sustain economic crop production. Projects must meet this criteria to be given funding approval.

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Contact: Carol Bettac
853-8109

Douwe Vanderwel
422-4385

July 9, 1990
For immediate release

Plans underway for 4-H 75th celebration

There are still two years until the 4-H movement celebrates its 75th anniversary, but celebration plans are already well underway.

Major activities will include a history book, a cookbook and a province-wide jamboree says Diane Maull, chairman of the special 75th anniversary committee. Maull is a 4-H leader from Mestikow.

The committee has selected a logo that will appear on all 75th material. The logo was chosen from entries in a provincial competition. Shelanda Kujala, 15, of Rocky Mountain House designed the winning logo. Kujala, a five-year 4-H member, is currently a member of the Hazeldell Beef and Evergreen Multi clubs.

A special anniversary cookbook will be available later this year says Maull. "The cookbook will be ready in time for Christmas giving and all the recipes are down-to-earth good country cooking."

Nearly 1,000 recipes have been gathered from people around the province who are associated with 4-H. All artwork in the book has been done by 4-H members. Proceeds from cookbook sales will fund anniversary celebrations from the club to provincial level.

A history of the 4-H movement in the province is also being compiled. Publication will be timed so the commemorative history is available during the provincial jamboree scheduled for Calgary in July, 1992.

4-H members, old and new, along with their families, leaders and staff from throughout the years will meet for a fun filled weekend. "All of us will be reflecting and saying thank you to the volunteers, sponsors and donors who made 4-H the tremendous program that it is today," she says.

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Contact: Diane Maull
857-3779

Mahlon Weir
422-4444

July 9, 1990
For immediate release

New 4-H scholarship announced

Alberta's 87 Ford and Mercury dealers have joined together to establish a new Alberta 4-H scholarship.

The dealers' advertising association organized the Alberta Ford & Mercury Dealer Scholarship. It will be awarded for the first time this year to seven past or present 4-H members from each of the 4-H regions in the province.

Each recipient will receive $1,000 to assist them with their post-secondary education costs. These awards will be given to students entering or attending a certificate or diploma program, with preference given to programs such as mechanics, accounting, secretarial arts and sales. Academic standing, financial need, community and 4-H involvement will be considered in determining the recipients.

"Eligible scholarship applicants who have their applications into the 4-H Branch by the July 15 deadline will be considered for the Alberta Ford & Mercury Dealer Scholarship." says Val Runyon, 4-H scholarship co-ordinator.

For more information on the Alberta Ford & Mercury Dealer Scholarship, or any other 4-H scholarship, contact the 4-H branch in Edmonton at 427-2541.

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Contact: Anita Anderson
427-2541

Val Runyon
427-2541

July 9, 1990
For immediate release

Check to control spruce pests

Regular checks of your spruce trees could prevent major damage through early control of any problems says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"Three common pests to watch out for are spider mites, cooley gall aphids and yellow headed spruce sawflies," says Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre.

Damage from spider mites can first be noticed in the centre of the tree, generally at the base, then works its way upwards and outwards. Needles begin to lose their color, turn yellowish-brown, then brown and finally dry up. A very fine webbing between the needles and dusty looking needles also indicate that spider mites are present. The mites themselves are very difficult to see with the naked eye.

"One way to see if mites have infested your tree or trees, is to hold a piece of white paper under a branch and shake it. If there are mites, they will fall on the paper and can be seen moving around," she says. Mites are a reddish brown or reddish yellow with two black spots on their backs.

Washing trees off with a strong jet of water from a hose will break up webs and wash mites off. The jet should have good pressure and the water should be worked towards the centre of the tree and on the undersides of the branches.

A number of registered insecticides can also be used to combat spider mites. These include dicofol (kelthane), diazinon and malathion. Trees should be sprayed two or three times at an interval of seven to 10 days.

Cooley gall aphids can first be observed as new growth develops cone shaped galls resembling a pineapple. Galls are green at first, but later turn reddish purple and dry out. They vary in size but are usually about 5 cm (two inches) long, North says. Another indication of these aphids is white cottony specks appearing on trees in the spring and through the summer.

(Cont'd)

Aphids feed inside the galls but can leave them in mid-summer and begin feeding on the needles. "Unfortunately, once you see the gall, it's really too late to control them because the aphids are feeding inside.

"If there only are a few galls, hand pick them from the tree. When you see the white specks you can spray with carbaryl or malathion. Repeat the application once or twice at seven to 10 day intervals," she advises.

In mid-June, yellow-headed spruce sawflies make an appearance. This insect does its damage while still in the larval or caterpillar stage. When young, they have a yellowish green body and an orange-yellow head. As they mature, they become dark green with a grey green stripe down each side of their body. They reach about 5 cm (two inches) in length.

"Because of their color, they blend in with the needles and are difficult to see unless looked for very closely," she says.

Sawflies damage spruce by eating needles and can leave trees looking quite ragged and brown. North says two to three years of moderate defoliation are enough to kill the tree, so immediate control is necessary.

"Again, if only a few of the larvae are present, hand pick off the tree. If there are too many for hand picking, apply malathion when you first spot the insects. Reapply in two to three weeks if necessary. For malathion to be most effective temperatures should be above 20 degrees Celsius," she says.

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Contact: Pam North
472-6043

Betty Vladicka
472-6043

July 9, 1990
For immediate release

Pruning not for all tomato plants

Alberta's short growing season makes choosing a fast maturing tomato cultivar important says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

"Bush type tomatoes tend to mature earlier than staking varieties," says horticulturist Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre.

Bush and staking tomatoes require different types of care. "Bush, or determinate, tomatoes are stocky bush plants that may not need to be staked and shouldn't be pruned," says North. "There's a common misconception that all tomatoes should be pruned," she adds.

Leaves produce food for the plant, so removing leaves may reduce the amount of fruit the tomato plant produces. Pruning bush tomatoes will expose the fruit to more intense sunlight and may cause sun scalding.

Staking varieties, on the other hand, should be pruned to maximize fruit ripening, says North. To prune, pinch out the suckers that form at the point where the branch joins the main stem.

Staking varieties, or indeterminates, grow for as long as the weather permits. Wire tomato cages or stakes with string can be used to support the plants. To train the plant, gently twist the stem around the string being careful not to break off the top. Strips of cloth or plastic can also be used to tie the plant.

Growing good tomatoes also requires regular watering and fertilizer. Soil around the plants should be kept evenly moist. When watering, water well to encourage a deep root system. Moisture is especially important when the plant develops its first flower clusters, she says.

Fertilizers should be water soluble and high in potassium. Plants should be given fertilizer once every four to six weeks. North suggests 18-18-24 or 15-15-30 fertilizers. Tomatoes kept in pots should be fertilized more frequently, once every two to three weeks.

(Cont'd)

Flower clusters that appear towards the end of the summer should be pruned, she says. "It's unlikely that flowers formed after early August will have time to develop into mature fruit before the fall, so you can remove flower clusters that form after the end of July.

"With staking tomatoes, you can remove the top of the tomato plant at the end of July. This will prevent further growth and formation of flower clusters. It will also allow the plant's energy to go to speed up ripening," she says.

For more information about growing and caring for tomatoes, contact North, or Betty Vladicka, at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre at 472-6043.

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Contact: Pam North
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Betty Vladicka
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July 9, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

PULSE TOURS AROUND PROVINCE THROUGH SUMMER

Zone 1 of the Alberta Pulse Growers Commission and the Soft Wheat Growers Association is offering a joint summer tour on July 31. Starting from the Bow Island district agriculturist's office, the tour will go to the Alberta Special Crop and Horticultural Research Center substation to see bean, pea and lentil trials, Nakatsura Farm to a solid seeded upright dry bean trial and Crooymans Farm for soft wheat varietal trials. A barbecue follows at 1 p.m. Pre-register at Medicine Hat (529-3616), Bow Island (545-2233), Taber (223-7907) or Lethbridge (381-5124) Alberta Agriculture district offices. Zone 2 of the Alberta Pulse Growers is offering three tours this year. A Vegreville area tour is slated for July 20. Varietal demonstration plots, herbicide trials, and disease research at the Alberta Environmental Center are on the schedule. Contact the Vegreville district agriculturist's office at 632-5400 for other tour details. An Olds area tour will go on July 31 and includes foreign pea screening trials, Alberta Wheat Pool pea plots, Pulse Commission varietal trials and Co-op food pea and special purpose licensing trials. The tour begins at 10 a.m. at the Alberta Wheat Pool plots. For more information, contact the Olds district agriculturist at 556-4220. The Lacombe area will be toured on August 2. The meeting spot for the tour start is the Bill Lescher farm nine miles east of Lacombe on Highway 12. Innoculant screening trials, crop tolerance testing, herbicide trials and varietal demonstration plots are on the tour itinerary. Further information is available from the Alberta Agriculture Lacombe district office at 782-3301. The Zone 3 tour is scheduled for July 27. Participants are to meet at the Cardiff Hall. Among the tour highlights are: Morinville seed plant upgrading to accommodate pulse crops; a Canada/Alberta Soil Conservation Initiative (CASCI) project site; cereals on fababean stubble deep rippled in the fall of 1987; and, European field pea and fababean cultivar trials. The $20 registration fee includes lunch and an evening barbecue. For more information, contact the Morinville district office at 939-4351.

(Cont'd)

RECYCLING PROMOTED IN NEW VIDEO

"Great expectations: Recycling in Alberta" (VT 309) argues the recycling movement needs more than good intentions and great expectations to succeed. The Access Network-Alberta Environment production examines market realities driving recycling activities and customer acceptance of recycled products. The documentary looks at all aspects of the recycling situation in Alberta, from community programs to government support to companies involved in the industry. For loan information, contact Alberta Agriculture's Film Library by writing 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5T6.

NATIONAL FARM SAFETY WEEK FOCUS ON CHILDREN

Keeping children on the farm safe is the theme of this year's national farm safety week July 25 through 31. The Canadian Safety Council sponsored week is targeting the four E's of farm safety: eliminate, educate, enforce and example. The four "rules" say to: eliminate hazards; educate and caution children about procedures and behavior around livestock, machinery and farm structures; enforce safety rules; and, set a good example. Contact the Alberta Safety Council office in Edmonton at 428-7555 for brochures and information. For more information, contact Alberta Agriculture's farm safety office at 427-2186.

FIELD CROP DAYS IN LACOMBE

Two field days will be held in the Lacombe area in early August. The Alberta Field Crops Research Centre has scheduled activities for the afternoon of August 2. Barley and triticale plant breeding plots, historical plots and crop management are on the agenda. The centre is on the east side of Highway 2A, one kilometre south of Lacombe. Agriculture Canada's research station south of Lacombe (west side of Highway 2A) is holding its field day on August 9 starting at 1 p.m. The program include wheat and oats plant breeding, weed control, soil fertility and forages. For more information, contact the Lacombe Alberta Agriculture district office at 782-3301.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

July 16, 1990
For immediate release

High demand for CARTT funding

The technology transfer component of the Canada/Alberta Research and Technology Transfer (CARTT) agreement on soil, water and cropping has provided funding for 95 different projects over the past two years says the program's provincial co-ordinator.

"In August 1988, when I took on the position of co-ordinating the applied research and technology transfer component of CARTT, I was optimistic CARTT funds would be well received. I saw the CARTT agreement as a catalyst and a source of new funding needed to get additional soil conservation activities off the ground across the province," says Russel Horvey.

The $4 million five year CARTT agreement was signed by the Alberta and federal governments in 1987. CARTT's objective is to develop and transfer appropriate conservation tillage and cropping technology which will minimize soil degradation and sustain economic crop production. Projects must meet this criteria to be given funding approval.

Interest in funding soil conservation activities has been overwhelming, Horvey says. During CARTT's first year, there were more project proposals than dollars. The best of the proposals were held over and funded the next year. "The second funding year ended March 31 this year and then too, we faced the same scenario and had to hold good project proposals over for 1990-91 funding," he adds.

What is most exciting, he says, is the involvement from across Alberta's agricultural community. To date, CARTT has sponsored soil conservation activities in 52 counties and municipal districts, special areas and improvement districts. Producers, district agriculturists, agricultural fieldmen, agricultural service boards, Alberta Agriculture regional and provincial specialists, PFRA area conservationists, educational institutions and federal researchers have all been involved.

(Cont'd)

As well, CARTT has approved projects for 21 different producer groups, government and wildlife agencies. Among them are soil conservation groups from throughout the province, applied research associations, the Canola Council of Canada, Ducks Unlimited, the Alberta Fish and Game Association and Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife.

"I'm really pleased with the kind of networking I'm seeing," says Horvey. "Networking the numerous resources available in a local community always leads to better results. It also allows a community to do bigger and better things."

Three of the 95 CARTT projects are for applied research, 52 are field demonstrations and 40 are awareness and technology transfer activities.

The three applied research projects involve assessment of soil compaction problems in southern Alberta, biological nitrogen fixing by annual legumes and their effect on subsequent crops and soil conservation tillage and cropping systems in the Peace River region.

Field demonstrations range through a wide variety of soil conservation practices including zero, minimum and reduced tillage, legumes as a fallow alternative, narrow spaced blade plow, chemfallow, dryland salinity control, uplands management, spring backflood, barrier seeding, terracing and canola and conservation tillage.

Awareness and technology transfer activities have included: a booklet telling the story of soil and water conservation in the province; radio ads; soil conservation calendars, placemats, meetings and awareness campaigns; school presentations; and, field days and tours.

Summaries of 51 of these projects have been published as "CARTT--Summaries of Project Reports, 1989". If you'd like a copy of the publication, contact Horvey in Edmonton at 422-4385 or a regional soil conservation co-ordinator.

The next deadline for CARTT project proposals is October 1, 1990. Application forms are also available from Horvey or regional co-ordinators.

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Contact: Russel Horvey
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July 16, 1990
For immediate release

Travelling symposium on sustainable agriculture in February

A travelling symposium on sustainable agriculture will stop at five locations across the province next February.

Sponsored by the Alberta chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society and the Alberta Institute of Agrologists (AIA), the workshops will stop in Grande Prairie, Barrhead, Vermilion, Brooks and Olds between February 11 and 16, 1991.

The symposium is a debate of sustainable agriculture concepts and effects on traditional agriculture. At each meeting, audiences will hear two keynote speakers give their opposing views on the meaning of sustainable agriculture.

As well, a panel of farmers will explain how they have begun to adopt practices to make their farms more sustainable. The producer forum will be followed by audience participation, in small discussion groups, examining how the issues raised will affect their own operations.

"The term sustainable agriculture embraces many of the approaches to farming sought as alternatives to current conventional practices that may harm our agricultural resources," says AIA president Ross Gould. "Farmers around the world are re-examining their farming practices because of a general societal consciousness about how all our activities--urban and rural--affect our environment.

"At the travelling symposium there'll be examination of a number of the concepts associated with sustainable agriculture such as sustainable, alternative, LISA (low-input sustainable agriculture), organic, conservation, regenerative and ecological."

Gould says defining sustainable agriculture is difficult because of the number of concepts associated with it. A recent article by soil scientists in the journal **Scientific American** points out the differences in the concepts and how they relate to sustainability.

(Cont'd)

Travelling symposium on sustainable agriculture in February (cont'd)

"The article says: 'Just because a farm is organic, or alternative or low input does not (necessarily) mean that it is sustainable. For a farm to be sustainable, it must produce adequate amounts of high quality food, protect its resources and be both environmentally safe and profitable'," notes Gould.

Further information about speakers, locations and dates will be available later this year. For more information about the travelling symposium, contact Gould in Edmonton at 427-5083 or Richard Johnson in Vegreville at 632-6761.

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Contact: Ross Gould
427-5083

July 16, 1990
For immediate release

Field crops research on display at Lacombe field day

Alberta Agriculture crop research at Lacombe will be on display August 2.

The Lacombe facility's annual field day is a guided tour through research plots and nurseries with Alberta Agriculture scientists and crop specialists on hand to discuss up-to-date developments with producers. Producers are encouraged to ask questions in the field and will have an opportunity for one-on-one discussions over light refreshments immediately after the tour. The tour begins at 1 p.m. and should end around 3:30.

Scientists will discuss an integrated approach to developing barley, spring triticale, winter triticale and winter wheat varieties. Emphasis is placed on feed and forage production and quality.

On the tour producers will see: crop rotation to control disease and increase soil fertility; intensive management using fertilizers, fungicides, plant growth regulators, varieties and rotations to maximize yields; using winter triticale for pasture and stored fodder production; and, agronomic studies exploring the effect of our environment on a variety's ability to yield.

The tour also includes a stroll down memory lane. A historical demonstration will allow producers to compare wheat and barley varieties grown by their grandfathers to newer varieties grown today, says Jim Helm, head of the crop research section.

"If at all possible, we will also try to address any concerns producers have about cereal varieties and cereal production--so bring your questions along with you," he adds.

Alberta Agriculture's crop research farm is located on the east side of Highway 2A, one kilometre south of Lacombe.

Additional field days will be held in Vermilion on August 3, Olds on August 7, Stettler on August 10 and Calmar on August 16. Contact your local district agriculturist for more details.

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Contact: Jim Helm
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Neil Miller
782-3301

July 16, 1990
For immediate release

August 24 Brooks horticultural research center field day

For an update on horticultural and special crops, the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks is the place to be on August 24.

The 28th annual field day includes a variety of displays, tours, demonstrations, clinics, films and lectures for the farmer, home gardener and the general public. "The field day is an opportunity for us to showcase what's going on at the center. Everyone is welcome to take part in the activities that will run from 9 a.m. through the late afternoon," says Judy Butt, research horticulturist at the center.

Walking shoes are a necessity for anyone interested in taking one of the tours that will be offered. Tours will include the center's research plots, grounds (including perennial and annual flower beds and rose garden), the nursery and herb and spice plots and the recently opened new research facility.

A dozen displays will cover a wide variety of agricultural, horticultural and food topics, says Butt. "Local district home economists will have a special nutrition in the '90s display featuring healthy eating. The University of Alberta will have a display explaining biological fertilizers. Most of the rest of the displays will be directly related to work at the center, so people can browse through information on fruit, potato, vegetable, greenhouse and nursery crops, as well as special crops and forages."

How-to demonstrations and lectures are a continuing popular part of the field day. Among topics this year are composting for the home gardener, lawn care, flower arranging and budding and grafting.

"Our visitors are also encouraged to bring in plant disease, insect and weed samples for diagnosis at our plant pest clinic. Our specialists will help you identify your problem and come up with solutions," she says.

(Cont'd)

August 24 Brooks horticultural research center field day (cont'd)

Some food services are available at the center, but many people chose to bring along a picnic lunch. "We're hoping to have fresh corn, season permitting," Butt adds.

The Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center is five kilometres east of Brooks on the Trans-Canada Highway. For more information about the field day, call the center at 362-3391.

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Contact: Judy Butt
362-3391

Joyce Clark
362-3391

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362-3391

July 16, 1990
For immediate release

Alberta 4-Hers on Montana tour

Five Alberta 4-H members and two chaperones spent 10 days in Montana and saw that state's 4-H club members in action.

Sheila Clark, of St. Albert, Terri Clegg, of Crooked Creek, Wanda Hasiuk, of Two Hills, Tom Hendrickson, of Innisfail, and Michael Kwirant, of Wildwood, are the Alberta delegates. Accompanying them are Beverly McCarty, an award-winning leader from Vegreville, and Mahlon Weir, a 4-H branch staff member.

Delegates left on the tour on July 6. They will attend the 1990 Montana State Congress and also tour some of the state's tourist spots.

The congress is July 9 through 12 in Bozeman. Its designed to allow the state's 4-H members to meet and take part in various activities including public speaking, judging, dress reviews and demonstrations.

"The congress offers delegates a chance to observe an American 4-H program in progress and to become aware of another area's 4-H program. This will hopefully create a greater awareness of our own 4-H program and how the two differ," says Marguerite Stark, provincial 4-H camping and exchange specialist.

On their way to and from the congress delegates will take in a number of well-known Montana sights. And while camping along the way, they'll also experience Montana's great outdoors, she adds.

"Delegates should also come away with a deeper appreciation and understanding of the similarities and differences between cultures, climates and lifestyles," says Naomi Tkach, 4-H summer travel and exchange co-ordinator.

Alberta Agriculture has sponsored the Montana 4-H Congress and tour trip since 1947. Delegates were chosen at the provincial 4-H selections program in May. Trip awards are based on community and 4-H involvement plus interpersonal skills.

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July 16, 1990
For immediate release

Controlling tree damage from yellow-bellied sapsuckers

Horizontal rows of evenly spaced small holes through the bark of a tree may indicate you have a problem with a yellow-bellied sapsucker says an Alberta Agriculture horticulturist.

Birches, Scotch pine, Colorado spruce and Siberian elm are the types of trees sapsuckers prefer, says Pam North, information officer at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre. Sapsuckers attack the trunk or large branches by pecking horizontal rows of evenly spaced small oval to squarish holes throughout the bark.

"The birds drink the sap that oozes from these holes. As one row of holes dries out, the sapsucker drills another row," she says. "The amount of damage they cause depends on how severely the tree is attacked. Trees that haven't had a lot of holes drilled in them will recover. If the branches or trunk are girdled with several rows of holes, water uptake may be prevented causing the portion above the girdled area to die."

Secondary damage from insects and disease entering the tree through the holes is also possible, she adds.

Yellow-bellied sapsuckers are a member of the woodpecker family. The small birds, 20 to 25 centimetres (eight to 10 inches) long, can be identified by the white stripe down closed wings, a red crown and a yellowish-white abdomen.

"Because the yellow-bellied sapsucker is protected by the Migratory Birds Act, dealing with the problems they can cause to your trees means you can only try to prevent or limit the damage without affecting the bird," says Pam North

The Migratory Birds Act prohibits killing and capture of the sapsucker or destruction of its eggs, so control is limited to ways of making the tree less attractive to the sapsucker or preventing further damage. "You can hang noisemakers, pieces of plastic or aluminum pie plates in the trees to scare them away," she says.

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Controlling tree damage from yellow-bellied sapsuckers (cont'd)

North says a plastic owl, or another bird of prey, in the trees may also scare away yellow-bellied sapsuckers. A strong jet of water on the birds may also discourage them from coming to the tree.

After the sapsucker drills holes, there are ways to control damage. "Wrap damaged areas with burlap to prevent further damage. It's particularly important to wrap the girdling area," she says. "Keep the wrapping on the trees from April to late summer. This is the time the sapsuckers are most active."

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Contact: Pam North
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July 16, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

AGRICULTURE LINKED WITH SPACE DISPLAY AT CAMROSE FAIR

The Camrose Regional Exhibition will be hosting NASA's "Agriculture links up with space" display during its County Fair and Festival August 9 through 12. One of the display's features shows how farmers can use satellite pictures of their fields to detect moisture levels, disease and insects. High resolution photography combined with remote sensing technology can also be used for crop yield surveys, land use planning, water pollution monitoring and soil moisture mapping. The display includes pieces of moon rock and pictures from a space shuttle Columbia mission. For more information, contact Gordon Porteous, exhibition general manager at 672-3640 (Edmonton direct line 428-1229).

ACC ACCEPTING ZONE DELEGATE NOMINATIONS

The Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC) is now accepting nominations for zone delegates. This year, 45 positions need to be filled in the nine zones of the province. Each zone delegate is elected for a two year term. Producers can only serve for three consecutive terms. The deadline for nominations to be postmarked is August 24. Eligible producers can contact their local delegates or the ACC office in Calgary for more information and nomination forms. All candidates must submit a resume with the nomination form. Information from the resumes will be published in the ACC annual publication to familiarize producers with candidates in their area. Election meetings will be held October 29 through November 9 throughout the province. For more information, contact Gordon Mitchell or Joanne Lemke in Calgary at 275-4400.

CREAM DAY AT MARKERVILLE CREAMERY MUSEUM

The annual "cream day" August 24 at the Markerville Creamery Museum will feature hand cranked old-fashioned ice cream and butter. During

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Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

CREAM DAY AT MARKERVILLE CREAMERY MUSEUM (cont'd)
the afternoon, volunteers visiting the museum will be able to crank ice cream freezers and churn butter on the museum lawn. Special dairy related displays will also be part of the day's events. An operating community creamery between 1889 and 1972, the museum was restored to represent a working creamery of 1932. Open daily between Victoria Day and Labor Day, the museum also features the history of dairying and represents the critical role small community creameries played in rural Alberta. A coffee shop featuring Icelandic food is part of the museum complex. The museum is located 20 minutes west of Penhold. For more information, call the museum at 728-3006.

WORLD SUGAR FARMERS TOUR SOUTHERN ALBERTA

Over 110 sugar producers from a dozen countries toured southern Alberta recently as part of a pre-conference tour. The participants were on their way to the fourth World Sugar Farmers' conference in Winnipeg. Alberta Agriculture minister Ernie Isley joined the tour start in Calgary. First stop was the Carseland Weir near Bassano, headworks for the Eastern Irrigation district, followed by the Keho Lake headworks near Nobleford and the Cor Van Roay Farms' 16,000 head feedlot. Sugar beet equipment at the John Zeinstra farm near Iron Springs was the last stop of the day. During the second day, delegates toured Agriculture Canada's Lethbridge research station, two local sugar beet farms, Lakeside Hutterite Colony near Chin and the Alberta Sugar Co. research farm at Taber. At a closing banquet, Alberta sugar producers had an opportunity to meet with cane and beet producers from around the world. For more information, contact Paul Thibodou in Lethbridge at 327-3242.

PUBLIC REVIEW OF SETTLED AREAS WETLAND MANAGEMENT POLICY

The Alberta Water Resources Commission has released a draft policy on the management and conservation of wetlands in Alberta's settled areas for public review. Developed in co-operation with provincial

(Cont'd)

PUBLIC REVIEW OF SETTLED AREAS WETLAND MANAGEMENT POLICY (cont'd)
agriculture, municipal affairs, transportation and forestry, lands and wildlife departments, the policy complements several conservation initiatives that are supported by the provincial government such as the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, the Canada\Alberta Soil Conservation Initiative (CASCI) and the Prairie Conservation Action Plan. This draft policy provides an overall direction for the management and conservation of wetland resources in settled areas. The draft policy proposes a general statement of principle and a set of strategies for wetland management. Some of the topics discussed are: characteristics of wetlands, reasons for wetland loss, values and benefits of wetlands, responsibilities for wetland management, objectives for wetland resources and concerns and principles to guide policy development. Comments from the public will help the provincial government to develop a policy that best reflects the desires of Albertans. The draft policy will be widely distributed. Individuals can mail in comments and attend regional public workshops scheduled for this fall. Announcements of these events in 14 Alberta centres will be posted and advertised in the media. For more information, contact the Alberta Water Resources Commission in Edmonton at 422-4232.

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July 23, 1990
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McClellan leads trade mission to Japan, USSR and Europe

Alberta Associate Agriculture Minister Shirley McClellan is currently on a three-week trade mission to Japan, the USSR and Europe.

The goal of the mission, July 13 to August 3, is to further trade relations with some of Alberta's most important markets for agricultural commodities and products. McClellan will be accompanied by representatives of a number of private sector Alberta companies.

The mission begins in Tokyo for a day of meetings with officials of major Japanese businesses. In a meeting with one of Japan's largest retail co-ops, and Alberta's single largest customer for beef, the associate minister will be pursuing opportunities for additional sales. McClellan will also be meeting with officials of Seiyu, Japan's third largest department store chain, to discuss an on-going work and product exchange between the company and Alberta.

The major portion of the mission will be devoted to meetings with officials in key regions of the Soviet Union in support of Alberta private sector agricultural trade ventures in the USSR. The Soviet leg of the mission was arranged as a direct result of consultations which took place in Alberta earlier this year with senior Soviet officials.

While in the USSR, McClellan will hold discussions with officials in the Khabarovsk region of the eastern Soviet Union, in the Novosibirsk area of Asian Siberia, and in Ufa, Orenburg and Kurgan, on the western slopes of the Urals. These regions represent a potential for diverse agricultural and food production and a significant market for Alberta's technology and production inputs.

The associate minister's discussions in these regions will focus on trade opportunities for Alberta business in crop and forage production and marketing, dairy and beef cattle genetics and breed improvement, and horse production and marketing.

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McClellan leads trade mission to Japan, USSR and Europe (cont'd)

Following these meetings, the Alberta delegation will visit Moscow to take part in discussions with Anatoly Ustjuzanin, Minister of Agricultural Production for the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic. McClellan will report to Minister Ustjuzanin on the mission's progress with regard to Alberta government and private sector trade objectives and will confirm Alberta's continued commitment to future joint efforts with the Russian Republic in agricultural development.

Members of a private Alberta company will join the associate minister in Moscow to discuss preliminary arrangements for a proposed joint venture to supply agricultural products to the community of more than 30,000 expatriates living and working in Moscow.

After leaving the USSR, McClellan will be meeting with key Western European companies to pursue exciting new market potentials for Alberta products.

The Alberta delegation will stop in Geneva for discussions on the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN). The delegation will meet with: representatives of the GATT Secretariat Agriculture Negotiating Committee; the Canadian delegation to the MTN; Cairns Group representatives; and, representatives of key individual countries. During discussions, McClellan will be advancing Alberta's position on trade issues of fundamental importance to the future viability of our province's agriculture and food industry.

"On this mission, we will promote increased sales of Alberta products in some of our key agricultural markets, and will present to European officials Alberta's position on international agricultural trade issues. Previous trade missions have proven highly successful in opening doors to Alberta business abroad, and in advocating Alberta's policy positions. I am confident we will make substantial progress in our trade goals as a result of this mission," she says.

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Contact: Doug Hill
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David Wong
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July 23, 1990
For immediate release

Extraction processing new horizon in food industry

New technologies spurred by structural changes in the food industry are fueling one of the industry's fastest growing sectors, food ingredients.

So says Tony Evans of the Edmonton based Norac Technologies, a company involved in pioneering one of those new technologies for a commercial food application. Norac is using extraction to get more end products from Alberta grown commodities from wheat to herbs. Through supercritical gas extraction using carbon dioxide, Norac can extract natural flavors, natural colorants, natural antioxidants, pharmaceutical and cosmetic oils and vitamin additives. The process can also be used to modify fat content in meats and dairy products.

Demand for natural ingredients has been one of the pushes in Norac's research, says Evans, who is vice-president of product development. But, the company's work has been part of an overall industry trend to new directions in agricultural processing. Speaking at the annual meeting of the Canadian Seed Growers Association in Edmonton, Evans told delegates it's important producers have an understanding of what happens to what they grow and how the food processing industry has been changing.

Self-sufficiency in countries not previously able to feed themselves has made international markets more competitive. Consumers are demanding more high quality processed foods and convenience and utility in their foods plus more choice, from ethnic to natural foods. Manufacturers have responded with product innovations, acting as an "assembly" of parts rather than making the whole from raw commodities and getting into food ingredient production. At the production end, this has meant producers have diversified their crops.

Evans outlined four major new directions in processing that are attempting to take advantages of the new marketplace. They include biotechnology, extrusion, classification and extraction. All aim at getting more products from a single commodity, opening up the potential of each.

(Cont'd)

Extraction processing new horizon in food industry (cont'd)

For example, he says barley could open up from being what is traditionally thought of as a fed grain with some malting potential to 10 or more end products including dietary bran, pharmaceutical oils, cosmetic waxes and industrial starch.

With over three years of work on extraction behind it, Norac is ready to go ahead with a $8.5 million plant budgeted to be on stream by late 1991 says Evans. Working 24-hours a day, the plant has a production capacity to supply 200 tonnes of natural ingredients worth about $14 million annually.

Norac is very sure of its market. "The entire output of our plant is already sold," he says. This means there is potential to expand, but first the plant has to be built, he adds.

The supercritical extraction process has also put the spotlight on Alberta and Edmonton, he adds. "We're very close to being recognized as a global centre for the process. World-wide visitors are here probably on a one a week basis."

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Contact: Tony Evans
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July 23, 1990
For immediate release

Showcase successful for Alberta food processors

Twenty Alberta food processors took their products to a first-time show in Vancouver this spring with very successful results.

The two-day show, Grocery Showcase West, gave Western Canadian food companies an opportunity to show their products to retailers and wholesalers. For participating Alberta companies, the grocery trade show gave them exposure says Marten Keashly, an Alberta Agriculture associate trade director. "That exposure was primarly in the British Columbia marketplace, but wasn't limited only to B.C. Other Western Canadian buyers and also some from the American Pacific-northwest were also in attendance."

Keashly, who co-ordinated Alberta participation at the show, says exhibitors were positive about their experience meeting with a range of people in the grocery industry from buyers and brokers to owners, managers and representatives of independent and chain grocery stores, department and convenience stores.

"Like any other trade show, making contacts, meeting with buyers and gaining exposure is critical to success. From the feedback we've received, the Alberta participants judged the showcase as very positive for their business," he says. He adds he expects more Alberta food companies will take part in the 1991 showcase.

New contacts and sales were rung up during the show, says Keashly. Four bakeries, three meat packers, two pet food companies and variety of specialty food companies made up the Alberta delegation. Bakeries were: Adrian's Bakery, Bowness Bakery (rye breads, crusty buns, pizza pretzel), Britil Bread Bakeries (crispbread, rye snacks and croustades) and Alberta Bakery (pizza crust, bread, buns, bagels and pastries). The meat packers were: Capital Packers, Cargill (boxed beef, beef by-products) and Lakeside/Centennial (boxed beef, portion cut meats, beef by-products). The two pet food companies were Champion Feeds and Martin Feed Mills (pet food, horse feed).

(Cont'd)

Showcase successful for Alberta food processors (cont'd)

Participating speciality food companies included: Gold West Confection Supplies (popcorn), Something Special Deli Foods (antipasto, jalepeno spread, red chili spread), Alberta Sunflower Seeds, Krahn's Homemade Style Dressings, Snatic Ranch (BBQ beef, pork ribs, chopped beef and pork), Alberta Fancy Sausage, Heritage Foods (frozen perogies), Sunstream Honey Fruits (spreads, jams), Quality Fast Foods (subs, burgers, sandwiches), Sun Mountain Beverages (spring water, soft drinks), Kappler Dairies (quark, cottage cheese, yogurt, milk, cream) and Uniwest Packaging (food packaging).

The Alberta companies were grouped together at the exhibit in an Alberta area. "The togetherness was another positive aspect for the companies. It helped both individual and collective profiles," says Keashly.

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Contact: Marten Keashly
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July 23, 1990
For immediate release

Unusual weather continued in June

May's unusual weather continued into June says Alberta Agriculture's weather resource specialist.

"Wet conditions and some flooding occurred in parts of the Peace River region, the Red Deer region and along the foothills," says Peter Dzikowski, of the conservation and development branch. "Generally though, June was a good month weather-wise for helping farmers in most areas of the province, despite some flooding, and drier than normal conditions in southern regions."

Most of the Red Deer region and foothills reported June precipitation totals 120 to 220 per cent of their monthly normal. Red Deer recorded 178 mm of rain, 211 per cent of its long term June average. The wet trend continued into early July, he adds. Brownfield was another wet spot. Its 123 mm of rain was 175 per cent of normal June rainfall.

Rainfall amounts in the Peace River region were also high with weather stations reporting between 80 and 120 mm of precipitation, or about 150 per cent of their long term average for June.

East central and southern regions were drier than normal for June with rainfall totals less than half of normal. Claresholm, for example, reported 15.7 mm, 21 per cent of the normal June rainfall.

Temperatures were near normal or slightly above normal for the month, he says. The first two weeks of June were well below normal with record minimum temperatures reported, followed by record maximum temperatures for the last half of the month. Average June temperatures were about 0.5 to one degree above normal in the Peace River region and central Alberta and near normal in southern Alberta.

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Contact: Peter Dzikowski
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July 23, 1990
For immediate release

Tofield 4-H member recognized for conservation efforts

Weekly conservation messages in her local paper were part of Deanna Brown's concerted conservation endeavors after she attended the 1989 Alberta 4-H conservation camp.

The 16-year-old, seven year Tofield 4-H Crafts and Laughs Multi Club member, says conservation camp opened many new doors in her life. As a result, she says she has been more interested and involved in a variety of conservation activities. That interest and involvement earned her the 1990 Grant MacEwan Conservation Award.

Brown will be receiving the award from the former provincial lieutenant-governor next week (August 4) at the 25th anniversary edition of the annual conservation camp. The award, established in 1975, is given to a conservation camp graduate who makes an outstanding contribution in spreading the conservation message.

Among Brown's accomplishments was establishment of a community composting site at a local transfer station and an arbor park program in her home town. Brown was involved in two paper recycling projects, one a challenge by her 4-H club to other organizations and starting a recycling program within her church.

Each of her club members was given an environmental awareness calendar, a certificate of merit for highway clean-up participation and an Earth Day poster with a conservation activity list. A guest speaker, organized by Brown, talked to club members about recycling and Brown added a talk about starting home composting. Brown was commentator of an "environmental nasties" fashion show at her club achievement day.

Brown's activities, like her newspaper articles, also went to the community beyond 4-H members. When asked, stallholders at the local Farmers' Market stopped using styrofoam cups and now use washable ones. Customers also bring back bags to be reused. She talked about soil conservation with the Tofield Garden Club and wrote an article in the local paper during National Soil Conservation Week. While working at a local nature center, she passed along conservation ideas to visitors.

(Cont'd)

She also worked with students and youth organizations. Brown obtained conservation videos, puzzles and games that she distributed to local elementary schools for classroom use. She toured kindergarten students through her farm showing compost heap, pheasant pens and nest box trials. Two groups of special education students were toured through the local bird sanctuary at Beaver Hill Lake with discussion of general conservation. At an annual outdoorsman camp, she shared conservation activities and games she learned at conservation camp. Brown also led Girl Scouts through projects to help them earn conservation and ecology badges.

Her conservation interests also took her outside her community as a student participant at a recent Alberta Global Education conference.

Along with a plaque, Brown will receive a $300 cash prize as the MacEwan award winner and an invitation to attend the Alberta Junior Citizen of the Year awards banquet September 14 in Edmonton.

The award, and the annual camp, are sponsored by Alberta Power Limited and TransAlta Utilities Corporation and are administered by Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch.

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Contact: Henry Wiegman
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662-2651

Dan Van Keeken
Alberta Power
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Mona Hari
TransAlta Utilities
498-7023

July 23, 1990
For immediate release

Alberta 4-Hers at Operation Enterprise

Two young Albertans will go to British Columbia tomorrow (July 24) to learn how to be better managers and leaders.

Kimberly Lindeman, of Milk River, and Tara McLeod, of Olds, will take part in Operation Enterprise, a program aimed at providing delegates with an understanding of what is involved in managing an organization. Through discussion groups, small workshops and one-to-one communication with top executives and managers, delegates learn how management can contribute to the success of their own lives and careers.

"The program is designed to help delegates become better managers and leaders. Facilitators also work to aid delegates in making career decisions which may given them a head start toward personal and career goals," says Marguerite Stark, Alberta Agriculture provincial 4-H camping and exchange specialist.

"Delegates are offered a chance to exchange ideas and programs, and develop an understanding and appreciation of other Canadians and their involvement in volunteer and youth programs. This will hopefully lead to an increasing public awareness of 4-H," adds Naomi Tkach, 4-H summer travel and exchange co-ordinator.

Lindeman and McLeod were chosen for the program at provincial 4-H selections in May. Trip awards are based on community and 4-H involvement plus interpersonal skills.

Alberta delegates to Operation Enterprise are co-sponsored by the Nelson Lumber Company and Alberta Energy Company Limited.

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July 23, 1990
For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

LAKELAND COLLEGE OFFICIAL RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE IN THAILAND

Taras Saruk, who has spearheaded Lakeland College's involvement in third world education projects, has received an honorary bachelor of science degree from Thailand's Rajamangal Institute of Technology (RIT). The King of Thailand presided over the ceremony in Bangkok on July 19. Sarak has travelled the miles between his Vermilion, Alberta base and RIT several times since 1986 when the two institutions started a pilot project in farm mechanization. Eventually, the relationship led to a formal twinning agreement between the Canadian college and RIT and the creation of an International Development Office at Lakeland College. RIT is Thailand's largest educational institution with 29 campuses and 80,000 students in degree, diploma and continuing education programs. While in Thailand, Saruk will also meet with the Canadian International Development Agency about two proposed projects. The Thai government has invited Lakeland College to participate in a comprehensive review of the country's post secondary system and to help RIT to establish centres of programming excellence at various campuses. Saruk was recently appointed chairman of the Alberta Colleges and Technical Institutes International Committee and is a member of the International Program Advisory Committee of the Association of Canadian Community Colleges. For more information, contact Saruk in Vermilion at 853-8579 or the Lakeland College communications office at 853-8528.

WHEAT BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE ELECTION COMING SOON

Prairie farmers now have the opportunity to nominate and elect candidates for the Advisory Committee to the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB). Nomination and election details for the 11 member advisory committee will be included in a brochure mailed this month to all Wheat Board permit book holders. Nomination forms for candidates will be included in the brochure. Information should be returned to the producers' vote

(Cont'd)

WHEAT BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE ELECTION COMING SOON (cont'd)
co-ordinator by mid-September. Bonne Lemon has been appointed the 1990 co-ordinator. He is retired from the Deloittee and Touche accounting firm. The advisory committee is a two-way communication link between the CWB and Prairie farmers. The CWB encourages all producers to participate in this important election process, as candidates, nominators and voters. For more information, contact the CWB in Winnipeg at (206)983-3421.

CSGA PANEL DISCUSSES CURRENT ISSUES FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Three Prairie pedigree seed growers and retailers shared their thoughts on current issues and future directions of their business at the annual meeting of the Canadian Seed Growers Association (CSGA) in Edmonton. The registration process for new varieties, variety testing, the role of the CGSA, the role of SeCan, options for grower-retailers, exclusive rights and proliferation of varieties were discussed by Jerry Kubick, of Alberta, Cam Henry, of Manitoba, and Clare Phillips, of Saskatchewan. Kubick says exclusive rights will allow growers to concentrate more on marketing and promotion. He says growers will have to live with proliferation of varieties, but there are still opportunities in the business. Phillips says independent growers will have to do a better job of promoting themselves and members will have to give a higher profile to SeCan. "SeCan needs to be visible," says the former SeCan president from Tisdale, Saskatchewan. Members are the logical ones to tell their neighbours about the organization and what it does, he adds. Henry voiced concern about new varieties only needing to be equal to and not better than current varieties' agronomic, quality and disease resistant characteristics. More sorting out of the best varieties for farmers will occur on the farm level he says, and farmers will need a mechanism to protect them so they can still have confidence in the economic soundness of new varieties. He says he is concerned about the cost of running more variety testing trials. For more information about the 86th annual CSGA meeting, contact the national office in Ottawa at (613)236-0497.

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

July 30, 1990
For immediate release

Computer model can estimate erosion losses

An early July deluge is one type of storm that can cause most of any field's annual erosion says an Alberta Agriculture specialist.

"Soil erosion by water is caused by how the rain falls in combination with soil and topographic features. Most annual erosion in a given field can occur as a result of one or two storms," says Tom Goddard, a conservation specialist with the conservation and development branch.

Measuring that erosion is difficult and expensive, but is an important part of dealing with the erosion problem, he says. "Since soil erosion lowers land's productivity, we need to be able to estimate the rate and extent to which our soils are eroding."

Computer modeling is one technique researchers are using to estimate soil erosion losses. One such model was used by the University of Alberta's soil science department to calculate soil losses from early July rainfall in central Alberta.

An automatic weather station located at the university's research plots near Breton, south west of Edmonton, recorded 4.4 inches of rain in a 24-hour period July 2 through 3. Similar amounts fell in the Edmonton and Whitecourt areas during the same time period.

"The maximum rainfall intensity recorded of 0.5 inches per hour was a usual intensity. The unusual characteristic of the rainfall was its continuous period. Continuous rainfall of that amount occurs only about every 30 years," says Cesar Izaurralde, a resource conservation professor at the university.

Field conditions and climate are used in the model, and soil losses are calculated using the energy effects of both rainfall and runoff, he says. To calculate erosion losses from the July storm, a 25 acre summerfallow field with a three per cent slope on a Gray Luvisol soil with 14 per cent clay and 2.3 per cent organic matter was used.

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"The model's calculated value of soil lost due to water erosion was 4.5 tonnes per acre during the 24 hour period. This figure is greater than what would be considered a tolerable soil loss," Izaurralde says. Equivalent soil losses could have occurred with a more intense summer storm of a shorter duration, he adds.

"Using a summer fallow field in the model presents a worse case scenario," says Goddard. "Erosion losses can be greatly reduced by management practices and soil cover.

"Actively growing crops and surface residues are effective in protecting the soil surface from rainfall energy. Soil losses on spring seeded fields or forages would have been less than on a summerfallow field, although perhaps still significant. Early summer storms damage spring seeded fields because there is often little crop cover then to protect the soil."

The computer model also indicated 64 per cent of the rainfall ran off the soil surface. "In other words, the soil was only able to absorb a little less than half of the rainfall. This accounts for the swollen creeks and flooding experienced by many farmers in central Alberta," says Goddard.

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Tom Goddard
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July 30, 1990
For immediate release

Plan, order windbreak and shelterbelt trees now

Farmers should order trees and shrubs for planned windbreaks and shelterbelts now to avoid disappointment says Alberta Agriculture's shelterbelt specialist.

The Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre started taking orders for the shelterbelt program on June 1 and will accept applications up to a November 1 deadline. "Since the assignment of plants is on a first-come, first-served basis, those who order early are almost certain to get what they want," says Brendan Casement.

Currently, Griffin popular, Altaica rose and Norway spruce are unavailable for 1991 spring distribution, he says. "Toward the end of the ordering period there will be other depleted varieties," he adds.

Trees and shrubs for farmstead shelterbelts can be ordered through the Alberta Shelterbelt Program. "Farmers pay for any plants ordered through this program," reminds Casement.

Six varieties of trees are being made available to farmers free of charge for field windbreaks through the Canada\Alberta Soil Conservation Initiative (CASCI). However, an application fee still applies and there is usually a delivery charge from the county or municipality, notes Casement.

"In order to qualify for this use, the trees must be used on field windbreaks at least 500 meters long and be shown on a sketch map attached to the application form. The windbreak must be able to protect soil and crops from wind damage," says Casement. Windbreaks have been shown to increase yield, and hence farm profits, when planted properly and as recommended, he adds.

Northwest poplar, acute leaf willow, green ash, caragana, dogwood and white spruce are the six varieties available through the CASCI program. "These plants have been identified to give farmers in the different climatic areas of the province plants that are suitable for field windbreaks in their area.

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Plan, order windbreak and shelterbelt trees now (cont'd)

"The caragana does well in the drier areas, while the dogwood does well where there is good precipitation. The willow makes good windbreaks in the moist central and northern regions and the poplar, spruce and ash do well in all but the extremely dry areas," he says.

Recommended spacings for these plants in field windbreaks are: caragana, 50 cm; dogwood, one metre; green ash, 2 metres; Northwest poplar, acute leaf willow and white spruce, 3 metres.

White spruce comes in bundles of 10 and deciduous plants in bundles of 25 and are ordered accordingly.

Application forms for shelterbelt and windbreak plants are available from local Alberta Agriculture district offices and from agricultural fieldmen.

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Contact: Brendan Casement
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July 30, 1990
For immediate release

Embryo transfer offers advantages to cattle breeders

Embryo transfer technology has come a long way from 1890 when a litter of embryo transfer rabbits were born in Walter Heape's laboratory. But more particularly, the reproductive science has advanced rapidly since the early 1970's when an Alberta company pioneered commercial applications of the technology with cattle.

Three speakers at the recent Confederacion Interamericana de Ganaderos (CIAGA) conference told their international audience of cattle breeders from North, Central and South America more about how the technology is practiced today and potential future applications.

Embryo transfer collects embryos from a superovulated donor female and transfers them to recipients females that serve as surrogate mothers for the remainder of the pregnancy. Once only a surgical technique, now the procedure is more commonly non-surgical and is performed mostly on the farm in Canada.

Rueben Mapletoft, head of herd medicine and theriogenology at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) in Saskatoon, reported a survey of the industry in the past year shows about 90 per cent of embryo transfer work in Canada was done on-farm. "I would suggest to you most of the work that's being done in-clinic, is work being done for the express purpose of exporting embryos," he says.

Embryo transfer offers many advantages to breeders. Mexican veterinarian Antonio Garcia, who studied in Saskatoon and is currently at Purdue University, outlined some of the advantages of embryo transfer, current procedures and also export implications.

Genetic improvement, planned matings, research, genetic testing and ease of export are four of its major advantages he says. Embryo transfer also allows for genetic testing of recessive traits, twinning and salvage of the reproductive function of infertile cows. Disease control has also emerged as another advantage, particularly in exporting.

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Studies, including one by Agriculture Canada, have shown if an embryo from an infected parent is washed correctly, the embryo won't transmit infectious diseases such as brucellosis and blue tongue to the recipient.

But reducing disease transmission is only one of several advantages embryo transfer offers to exporters. Reducing costs of quarantine, transportation and animal purchase plus a greater selection of genetics are obvious benefits. As well, notes Garcia, the embryo in the uterus and later as suckling calf can acquire immunities and adapt better to a new country's conditions than a live older animal.

Garcia also pointed out there can be disadvantages in the technology when it's exported to a developing country or one less familiar with the technology. Technical, recipient cow, training and facility costs are high. Regulations can be prohibitive and pregnancy success rates may be lowered by a lack of trained personnel.

While Central and South American countries can trace embryo transfer back to 1976, activity is still limited in many countries. Mapletoft noted the same limitations as Garcia, but adds interest and use of embryo transfer technology has increased considerably in the last few years, particularly in Argentina and Brazil.

Technology transfer remains an important component of expanded export of embryos, Mapletoft says. Thawing frozen embryos and the actual transfer aren't the only elements to be considered. Recipient cows are the most limiting factor in pregnancy success, he says. "Pregnancy success is a tribute to how well recipients are managed, and that's especially critical in an export situation."

The industry is also moving in new directions. "All sciences related to genetic engineering are advancing at a rate that is practically inconceivable," says Gabriel Bo, the third member of the embryo transfer panel. Bo, from Argentina, is currently a post-graduate student at the WCVM. He outlined four new technologies in embryo transfer.

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Best known of the four is in vitro fertilization. Many people are already familiar with human "test-tube" babies. With cattle, in vitro fertilization is more efficient than superovulation with less loss of genetic material. Research success in the last decade has sparked immense interest and Bo says the next five years should see many improvements and widespread use of this technique.

Prenatal sex selection is another new application of the technology, although it isn't very efficient yet, he says.

Producing identical offspring can be as simple as splitting an embryo under a microscope with a razor blade, he says. More advanced is cloning, or nuclear transplanting. Success rates still vary, but commercial cloning of cattle should be a reality soon, he says.

Further away on the future's horizon is production of chimera and transgenic animals. Chimeras combine the best traits of each donor, while transgenics is the transfer of genetic material for production or performance to the one-cell fertilized embryo. Work in both areas has been done on mice with still limited success.

Imagination is the only boundary to research work and further development, Bo says. There is a potential for super-animals and also other applications such as retaining endangered species by interspecies embryo transfer.

For more information about the CIAGA conference, or the embryo transfer presentation, contact the Alberta/Canada All Breeds Association in Calgary at 228-3467.

July 30, 1990
For immediate release

Evaluation report available on Bourgault sprayer

The Alberta Farm Machinery Research Centre recently completed a field evaluation of the Bourgault 850 field sprayer and now has evaluation reports available about the sprayer.

"Special features on this sprayer can provide the farmer with additional spraying time in moderate wind conditions when used properly," says Brian Storozynsky, a field technologist with the centre in Lethbridge. These features are Swivel-Jet dual nozzle body assemblies, TeeJet extended range nozzles (XR11003 and XR110015) and a BEE application rate monitor.

As wind speed increases during the day, farmers can keep spraying by lowering the nozzle pressure, he says. "At Bourgault's recommended nozzle height of 15 inches, both nozzle types produce acceptable spray patterns at 20 pounds per square inch (psi). "

The desired application rate, indicated on the BEE monitor, is kept constant by adjusting tractor forward speed. Off-swath spray drift is less using the large XR11003 nozzles at 20 psi than when using the XR110015 nozzles at 40 psi. "The dual nozzle body assemblies made changing nozzles quick and safe," Storozynsky notes.

The Bourgault model 850 is a 83 foot trailing type sprayer with automatic folding booms, a hydraulically driven hypro pump and a suspension system on the castor wheels.

"Its transport width is just over 13 feet, so it provides safe road transport. As well, the booms easily fold to transport position and unfold to field position without getting off the tractor," he says.

The spring and shock absorber on the castor wheels provide smooth boom operation in rough fields at seven miles per hour. Evaluation also found pump capacity was sufficient for agitation and nozzles.

For more information on sprayers, contact the Alberta Farm Machinery Research Centre in Lethbridge at 3000 College Drive South, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1K 1L6 or call 329-1212.

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Contact: Brian Storozynsky
329-1212

July 30, 1990
For immediate release

More shorter-term, written land lease agreements

Across the province cash rates for cropland leases are down, more of these leases are for one-year terms and more are in writing.

A final report from a province-wide survey of land leasing rates is now available from Alberta Agriculture. "Farmers and other people connected with agriculture-related activities may find the final report on land leasing rates a useful guide," says Craig Edwards of the farm business management branch in Olds.

The survey data was compiled by the statistics branch and obtained by contacting tenants and landowners between February and May, 1990.

Provincially, cash lease rates on cropland were down 1.35 per cent from 1989, says Maureen Whitlock, of the statistics branch. Rates had gone up slightly, about $5 per acre, in 1989. Just over 500 lease agreements in the six agricultural regions were surveyed.

In southern Alberta, the Lethbridge-Medicine Hat area, cropland lease rates ranged from $25 to $60 per acre for irrigated land and between $10 and $30 for dryland. In the south central region (High River-Airdrie-Drumheller) rates were between $15 and $45 per acre. All the rest of the province, except the Peace region, ranged between $10 and $38 per acre. In the far north the rates ranged between $7 and $20 per acre.

Cash rental leases were signed for a one-year term in 62 per cent of the survey responses. Two-thirds of crop share agreements were for a single year. "Lease length often reflects the level of optimism in the stability of the grain economy," says Whitlock.

Written leases accounted for 67 per cent of all leases, while 81 per cent of cash leases are in writing. Whitlock says more lease agreements are being recorded on paper.

Just over half of crop-share responses, 51 per cent, show landlords share seed, fertilizer and chemical expenses in the same proportion as the crop is shared.

(Cont'd)

More shorter-term, written land lease agreements (cont'd)

"Where the landlord doesn't share expenses, it should be noted many have reduced their share from the traditional one-third owner: two-thirds tenant split to one-quarter or one-fifth owner," says Whitlock. However, she adds, 67 per cent of crop share agreements are the traditional ratio.

Cash rent is paid anytime. An equal percentage of tenants, 38 per cent, pay rent either in the spring prior to land entry or pay half in the spring and half after fall harvest. The remainder pay after harvest or have other arrangements such as monthly payments.

The 1990 pastureland rental rates survey results, based on 107 responses, show a range of rates based on local conditions. Overall, grazing rates range from $5 to $20 per animal unit month (AUM) or a cow/calf pair per month.

"The most common rates were between $10 and $15 per AUM with an average of $12," says Edwards.

Rates are slightly different between northern and southern Alberta. In the north, the rates ranged between $7 and $12 per AUM and southern rates were slightly higher at between $8 and $15.

In 54 per cent of the surveyed agreements, the renter was responsible for fence maintenance. In 40 per cent of the agreements, the landlord had complete responsibility for fencing.

Written agreements accounted for 43 per cent of pasture lease arrangements, while 57 per cent were verbal.

For a copy of crop and pastureland lease survey results, contact Edwards in Olds at 556-4248 or Whitlock in Edmonton at 427-4011.

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Contact: Craig Edwards
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Maureen Whitlock
427-4011

July 30, 1990
For immediate release

Alberta 4-Hers tour Northwest Territories

Twenty Alberta 4-H members start a two week tour of northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories this week.

Taking part in the tour are: Cheryl Whipple and Jeff Hammond, Pincher Creek; Tarolyn Aaserud, Craigmyle; Mary Claire Belanger, Edgerton; Tracey Bendixen, Marwayne; Angela Bishell, Veteran; Laine Bishop, Carseland; Patricia Blaeser and Bob Dietrich, Heisler; Jason French, Westlock; Ross Harty, Swan Hills; Clay Neal, Lacombe; Kellie Pederson, Barrhead; Laura Pimm, Grimshaw; Lois Scheerschmidt, Botha; Stacey Sellers, Innisfree; Derek Smith, Warner; Chad Thirsk, Chauvin; Allen Thompson, Milk River; and Kirk Wildman, Sangudo.

The 4-H Alberta/Northwest Territories agriculture development tour takes the delegates as far north as Yellowknife. Accompanied by leaders Iris Davies, of Dewberry, and Hugh McLarty, of Coronation, the delegates will camp enroute and purchase Alberta products wherever possible.

"Through visits to agricultural and industrial facilities and with residents and officials in the towns, the group will gain insight into both the differences and similarities between the Northwest Territories and their home areas in Alberta," says Arlene Ross, Alberta Agriculture 4-H agriculture specialist who will be staff chaperone during the tour.

From August 2 through 13, the delegates will travel through the southwestern Northwest Territories visiting Hay River, Fort Providence and Yellowknife. "Along the way, the group will meet with a number of youth groups for ball games and barbecues. This will provide the delegates with an opportunity to share the 4-H program with their northern neighbours," says Marguerite Stark, provincial 4-H camping and exchange specialist.

The first northern tour in 1974 was an exchange program. Later it was changed to an agricultural development tour, says Stark.

(Cont'd)

Alberta 4-Hers tour Northwest Territories (cont'd)

Alberta delegates were chosen to participate in the tour at the provincial 4-H selections program in May. Trip awards are based on community and 4-H involvement plus interpersonal skills.

The two 4-H leader chaperones were awarded the trip as a leader development opportunity which recognizes leaders for their dedication and contribution to the 4-H program.

The 1990 northern agricultural development tour is sponsored for the second year by Edmonton Northlands and the Alberta Treasury Branches.

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July 30, 1990
For immediate release

Alberta Agriculture Appointments

NEW NURSERY CROP SPECIALIST IN BROOKS

J. Mason Robertson has joined the Alberta Special Crops and Horticultural Research Center in Brooks as nursery crops specialist. Robertson joins the centre's staff from a three year post-doctoral appointment at the Agriculture Canada research station in Lacombe. As nursery crops specialist, he will do extension work with the industry as well as conduct a research program. "My research will focus primarily on cold tolerance in woody ornamentals, although this may change as the needs of the industry change," he says. Robertson's PhD and undergraduate degrees in plant biology (1982) and English and history (1976) are all from the University of Calgary. Born in Swift Current, Robertson was raised on a grain farm near Hazlet, Saskatchewan. He can be contacted in Brooks at 362-3391.

NEW DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST IN MANNING

Alberta Agriculture's Manning district office welcomes Margurite Thiessen as its new district home economist. She has spent the past four years working in the area of lifeskills and infant child care. She holds a bachelor's degree in human ecology (1985) from the University of Manitoba. She was raised in the farming community of Beausejour northeast of Winnipeg. Thiesson also has a strong 4-H background. Both led her to pursue a position in rural extension. As district home economist, Thiessen is a resource person for rural families offering information and educational programs in a variety of social and economic areas from farm financial management to food and nutrition. She says she is delighted to be part of the district team and looks forward to working with farm families and rural organizations in the Manning district. She can be contacted at 836-3351.

MARGURITE THIESSEN

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For immediate release

Agri-News briefs

FORAGE SEED PRICE PICTURE SAME AT LAST YEAR'S

In general, forage seed prices are expected to remain near current levels during 1990-91 says Alberta Agriculture's special commodities analyst. Seed availability continues to exceed usage and is keeping prices static, says Al Dooley, of the market analysis branch. "Until the two are in closer balance, prices will remain under pressure." His price forecast is based on generally favorable weather conditions through harvest. "Much can happen to change the supply situation, but under present circumstances, price gains will be slow in coming," he adds. Certified alfalfa seed should average close to the 1989-90 95 cent per pound level for cleaned and bagged seed. Big bromegrass and crested wheat grass crops and low buyer interest will likely keep their prices in the 30 cent per pound range. A large crop of red fescue is also in the making. He estimates new crop creeping red fescue at a 25 cent per pound return to farmers for rough seed and the same price or lower for timothy common seed. For more information or a copy of the "Forage Seed Situation and Outlook", contact Dooley in Edmonton at 427-5383.

TRADE MISSIONS ONE KEY TO DOING BUSINESS IN SOUTH AMERICA

Trade missions have to stay long enough to establish a close relationship between sellers and potential buyers Chilean German Stolzenbach Minte told his audience at the recent CIAGA conference in Calgary. Speaking to cattle breeders from North, Central and South America, Minte said when trust is established between people then business starts to come to a head. Minte is general manager of diversified farmers' co-operative in southern Chile whose business includes two-thirds of that country's milk market, a veterinary laboratory, artificial insemination, embryo transfer, forage development, cattle exports and regular imports to several countries. Minte also advocated establishing research or development projects.

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TRADE MISSIONS ONE KEY TO DOING BUSINESS IN SOUTH AMERICA (cont'd)

particularly through private organizations rather than public, as a way to stimulate business between a developed and a South American country. He also says understanding the diversity of the continent--from climate to politics--and types of farms is important in marketing. Investigating import regulations and knowing international currency availability can save frustration with time lags when doing business in South America, he adds. For more information about the CIAGA conference, contact the Alberta/Canada All Breeds Association office in Calgary at 228-3467.

CROPS FIELD DAY AT ALBERTA ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE AUG. 2

The Alberta Environmental Centre's plant sciences division is holding its eighth annual crops field day in Vegreville on August 2. Starting at 1 p.m., visitors will be taken on a tour of soil management, weed, plant disease and insect pest research plots. The tour will also include cereal, canola and perennial forage variety trials. Field experiments on weed control with newly registered and experimental herbicides and herbicide mixtures, tolerance of rotational crops to herbicide carryover, competition and cultural control of weeds and biological control of Canada thistle are part of weed control research. A collection of 80 weed species in a specialized garden is also included in the tour. Plants diseases such as blackleg and seedling blight on canola, snowmould and Fusarium wilt of alfalfa, root rot and Sclerontinia stem rot of peas and foliar diseases in cereals are part of research activities examined during the tour. Thrips and canola root maggots, their monitoring and control will be discussed in the insect pest problems section. Demonstration trials of alpine native grasses selected for their ability to grow in extreme environments will be another attraction. A highlight of the tour will be a tillage and soil conservation equipment demonstrations. Tours will be of special interest to farmers, field officers for agribusiness and researchers, but everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be served. The Alberta

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Agri-News briefs (cont'd)

CROPS FIELD DAY AT ALBERTA ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE AUG. 2 (cont'd)
Environmental Centre was opened in 1980. It conducts research for Alberta Agriculture, Alberta Environment and other provincial government departments and agencies. The centre is located in Vegreville, 100 km east of Edmonton. For more information, contact Jay Woosaree at 632-6761.

ALBERTA 4-HERS PARTICIPATE IN CLUB WEEK '90

Nearly 100 Alberta 4-H members from around the province met at Olds College July 3 through 9 to participate in the 48th 4-H Club Week program. This year's theme, "Flight of Discovery", helped direct delegates through a week of learning, fun and personal growth. In a small group setting, delegates participated in communication, stereotyping, decision-making, family, goal-setting and self-esteem sessions. As well, guest speakers encouraged the group to make responsible choices and pursue dreams despite obstacles which may arise. "Delegates were given an opportunity to gain a greater understanding of themselves," says Anita Anderson, provincial 4-H personal development specialist. "They also made many new friendships. Club Week is a provincial program where delegates can meet other 4-H members from all over the province," Anderson adds. In recent years, Club Week has evolved from a project-related program to one focused chiefly on personal development. Members must be aged 15 to 21 to attend, and can participate in the Club Week program only once. Sponsored by Alberta Wheat Pool, United Grain Growers, Agriculture Canada, and Alberta Agriculture, Club Week continues to be a life-changing experience for senior 4-H members who attend each year. For more information, contact Anita Anderson in Edmonton at 422-4444.

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